

THE GATEWAY

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HOME OPENER Bears guard Tyler Coston drives the net in the team's 86-70 win over Regina on Friday. They later went on to beat Brandon 85-74 on Sunday.

LEANNIE FONG

MP discusses Canadian foreign policy

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

Canadian Alliance MP and federal Foreign Policy Critic Rahim Jaffer was on campus yesterday to discuss some of the more controversial international relations issues facing Canada today.

Speaking as part of the Speak Out series to a small crowd, the MP for Edmonton-Strathcona opened his talk with a relation of his personal involvement in Canada's role in the war on terrorism and the current conflicts in the Middle East. He described how his role as an MP has changed due to his Muslim faith.

"After 11 September, we noticed there was a huge void in the House of Commons as far as people with Islamic backgrounds were concerned. Because I'm the only MP with a Muslim background, I've been able to represent Islam and Muslims around the country, although I never positioned myself to do that," he explained.

"I don't consider myself very devout, but it forced me to learn a lot."

PLEASE SEE JAFFER • PAGE 4

Klein, Parenti to speak at Parkland conference

TARA NARWANI
News Writer

Renowned activists Naomi Klein and Michael Parenti are just two of the highlights of this weekend's annual Parkland Institute conference.

Attendance at Challenging Empire, the institute's seventh annual conference, will leave you feeling "more like a citizen," according to Jane Wiley, the institute's program coordinator.

At the very least, you will get the chance to hear a number of renowned and controversial thinkers speak on issues of citizenship, sovereignty, and self-determination.

The faculty of arts-affiliated think-tank's annual conference will run 14-16 November at various locations on the University of Alberta campus, and will offer a variety of events and activities.

Several keynote addresses punctuate an agenda of intimate breakout sessions designed to stimulate discussion, as well as film screenings of the Parkland's picks from the Global Visions Film Festival. An evening of musical and comedic entertainment is planned for Saturday night.

The theme of Challenging Empire is a timely one, according to Parkland executive director Ricardo Acuna, due the advent of high-profile international

trade negotiations such as next week's meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in Miami. "Meetings such as these highlight the need for sovereignty and domestic policy in relation to international trade," Acuna explained.

"To be able to see someone who doesn't speak the status quo is quite uncommon. You get to see Hollywood every day. You never get to see the opposite."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT

The American military's presence in Iraq also played a role in the choice for this year's theme. "All of us can't ignore that the American empire is changing, that the United States' relationship to all sovereign countries around the world is changing," said Wiley.

Appropriately, the opening keynote lecture will be given by Dr. Michael Parenti, who is considered to be a leading radical critic of American foreign policy.

PLEASE SEE CONFERENCE • PAGE 2

Event urges youth to 'Get Out and Vote'

MIMI SIMON
News Writer

A party was held this weekend encouraging youth aged 18-30 to become more involved in politics by exercising their right to vote.

Held Saturday at downtown's Azimuth Theatre, the "Get the Vote Out" party was a collaborative effort between Draft Six, a local production company, and Laurie Blakeman, Liberal MLA for Edmonton Centre.

Those youth attending the "Get Out and Vote" party had the option of coming early to see one of the final performances of *Dead Man Talking*, a play about how a young man handles his brush with death after contracting meningitis.

However, the real festivities began after the play, when the organizers commandeered centre stage to talk to the approximately 150 young people present about how voting and Bill 43, Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act, entering its second reading this month, will impact youth ages 18-30.

Organizer Steven Rowe, a political science student at the University of Alberta, warned the crowd of the potential economic impact Bill 43 may have on students.

"Bill 43 will eliminate the 30 per cent tuition cap, and right now universities can draw up to 30 per

"The government can keep track of who is voting and they screw those that don't vote all the time."

CHRIS CRADDOCK,
LOCAL ACTOR

cent of their operational expenditures from student tuition. Bill 43 would grant universities substantial power to increase tuition and then the government could begin to speed up the scaling back of funding," explained Rowe.

"The average U of A arts student like myself is already paying \$4000 a year. The increase will mean an extra \$1000 that we will pay."

PLEASE SEE VOTE • PAGE 2



SHAWN BENDOW

ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO VOTE Chris Samuel and MLA Laurie Blakeman.



12 It may have took him 19 years to finally bring it home, but Bears soccer coach Len Vickery and his side won the school's first national title since 1979 this weekend in Montréal.

Inside

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Outside

Thursday Sunny; hot: the "Internet," not drunk driving; High 5, Low 2
Friday Sunny; hot: transparent backpacks; not: epilepsy; High 4, Low 7
Saturday Sunny; hot: pep rallies; not: homeless cats; High 2, Low 9
Sunday Sun and cloud; hot: SU Beef-a-thon and Dribble Rally; not: pogs; High 3, Low 9
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Pemba Hall suffered from two fires in four weeks, causing University officials to go searching for an arsonist. The second fire occurred in a third floor hallway, but was essentially extinguished by students by the time the fire department arrived. No one was hurt, but the fire closely resembled a fire two weeks earlier where curtains had been ignited and left to burn. Fire charred walls and doorframes, but smoke damaged most of the hallway. Though they had been on order for some time, smoke detectors did not exist in the building. Students had to be alerted by other residents about the fire in their building. Luckily those nearest to the blaze were out for the evening.

1978



18 If you like cougar, camel-toes and swearing, then you'll just love Strikmitt, the potty-mouthed, dirty "coups" who are set to rip up New City Ukid Lounge on Sunday.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by Robin Collum and Caitlin
Crawshaw

Macleans' magazine keeps bugging the Gateway to tell them what's hot and what's not at the U of A for their 'Campus Confidential' issue.

To save us a lot of time and effort, what do you think is 'hot' and alternatively, 'not,' at the U of A?



Denvy Jorgensen
Computing
Science I

The wireless connection is pretty good, it's something new, and you can go anywhere with it. As for not, I'd probably have to say WebCT, because it's so annoying.



Lily Chong
Agf/For

I hate how people dress as if they're going out somewhere, so gorgeously nice. It's so high school, and it bugs me. Sweat pants are cool, they're definitely hot, and toques and gloves and scarves.



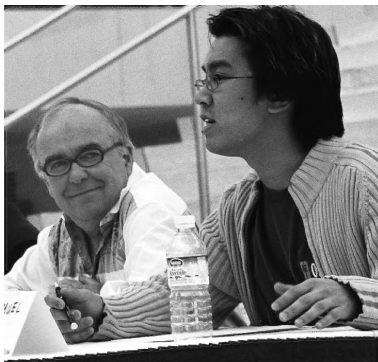
Jessica Wong
Science I

I don't like the underground walkways, that system needs to be better, well lit, and with more hallways. What's hot: the atmosphere at SUB. It's a good study space—not too loud, not too quiet, especially during the night.



Nicolas Allen
Phys Ed IV

SUB's really become busy this year, compared to other years. I think people just want to hang out here more than other places. Everybody's sick of exams. Exams are not at all hot.



FIGHTING FOR ACCESSIBILITY Chris Samuel and city councillor Michael Phair.

Education forum looks at issues facing students

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Frustrated with the state of postsecondary education, a panel of local figures from municipal, provincial and student governments gathered at City Hall this Sunday to discuss the issues facing students.

Organized by the City of Edmonton Youth Council, the panel was comprised of city councillor Michael Phair, U of A Students' Union Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel, MLA and leader of the provincial New Democratic Party Raj Pannu, and Liberal MLA Jeffrey Taft.

All of the speakers expressed concern for the future of postsecondary education, emphasizing its value to society and the importance of accessibility and affordability.

"Affordability is a big one, and accessibility—that every aspiring Alberta youth with high school qualifications that meet the entry requirements for university or college can in fact go to college or university," said Pannu. "It is becoming increasingly difficult for young Albertans to be able to do that."

Pannu also pointed out that tuition now accounts for approximately one-third of the University of Alberta's budget, whereas ten years ago it accounted for only ten to twelve per cent. The result, he said, is increased tuition paid by students and their families.

Ultimately, the ever-controversial Bill 43 became the focus of debate, with each panelist discussing its negative implications for the quality of postsecondary education in Alberta.

"This bill greatly consolidates the power of the Minister of Learning over all postsecondary institutions in the province," argued Taft.

According to Taft and Pannu, the bill will take power from democratically-elected student groups and allow Learning Minister Lyle Oberg to make unilateral decisions regarding postsecondary institutions.

"[Postsecondary] institutions right now are governed by boards and the boards have broad representation. But under this bill, the Minister has power to dissolve the boards, to send an auditor, to send an inspector, to suspend students' unions, approve programs, and on and on," Taft asserted.

To Taft, this is part of a larger, worrisome trend of the Alberta government giving greater power to individual ministers. He explained the imple-

mentation of a provincial police force reporting to a single cabinet minister is also on the government's agenda.

Phair focused on the importance of post-secondary education in allowing Edmonton to function as a creative city, using creative solutions to maintain the city's economy.

"I have no question in my mind that postsecondary education is one of the things that helps people become creative," Phair said.

He argued that Edmonton will be negatively impacted by rising tuition costs, resulting in fewer young Albertans attending postsecondary institutions.

"We need more funding, but the government is unwilling to give it to us. Postsecondary education is vital to the success of the province as a whole."

CHRIS SAMUEL,
SU VP (EXTERNAL)

Like Phair, Samuel argued that postsecondary education in the province is undervalued by the provincial government, and ought to be better funded. He explained that tuition at the U of A has gone up 209 per cent in the last ten years.

This indicates the danger of removing the tuition cap, he said, which prevents tuition at any given postsecondary institution from exceeding 30 per cent of that institution's base operating budget.

"We need more funding, but the government is unwilling to give it to us," said Samuel, adding that the province's refusal to put more money into postsecondary education is forcing the U of A's administration to seek more money from students to cover the costs of running the institution.

"Postsecondary education is vital to the success of the province as a whole," he added.

Citing the recent increases to postsecondary funding in the United States and the financial support given to students in Ireland, Samuel argued the government of Alberta is "taking steps backwards."

"It's about time we got on this bus, because if we don't, it's our future and our children's future that suffers."



geT READY For

BEAR TRACKS 'Reloaded' November 18

Bear Tracks will remain down until 6 am Tuesday, Nov. 18 due to a system upgrade.

Before November 18, **GO TO:**
www.registrar.ualberta.ca/beartracksinfo
for details on:

What's changing...

- ✓ New password controls:

WHEN you first logon, you must type your current password in UPPERCASE

THEN you will be asked to provide a new secure password — must be minimum 8 characters, including 1 special character and 1 digit

NEW PASSWORD is cAse SenSiTiVe — can use upper and lower case

BE PREPARED — compose your new password ahead of time

What stays...

- ✓ Basic functionality is the same
- ✓ Hours of operation remain 20 hours a day/6 days a week

Make sure you familiarize yourself with ALL the changes before November 18

www.registrar.ualberta.ca/beartracksinfo

2: ? :3

1: ? :4

the four **IRON HORSE** elements

02: indulge

Jaffer has high hopes for next government's foreign policy

JAFFER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the week after 11 September, when aggression against people of Muslim faith began to occur across the country, Jaffer suggested the Prime Minister visit a mosque to show solidarity with Islamic communities. When Chrétien took his suggestion, Jaffer was able to accompany him.

"That's something that really changed my role," he explained. "Since then, I've tried to get actively involved with groups across the country in establishing a national voice for Islam."

Jaffer explained how Canada's role as a pluralistic society that successfully incorporates many different cultures and religions into the fabric of the country should influence the role they play abroad.

"We want to be a middle power with some influence," he said. "Because of the fact that Canada is a world leader in the area of pluralism, we should take a stand and lead on that front. I think it's quite clear Canadians want us to help conflict around the world with our influence, especially through peacekeeping, but we have a declining influence in the world right now."

Jaffer cited a lack of funding for the Canadian military and the government's harsh criticism of Americans and the war in Iraq as reasons for Canada's declining world influence.

"We took the stand that we should not have been involved in the conflict," he said. "Had the ensuing debate in the House of Commons not disintegrated into name-calling and criticism of the US, I believe the Liberals could have taken a more effective stance. People were happy we stayed out of the conflict, but were really embar-

rassed with the way the Canadian government handled the situation."

The \$300 million in foreign aid the government has promised for Iraq over the next three years is not enough and not soon enough for the Alliance party, explained Jaffer.

"We really need to focus on rebuilding Iraq now and we haven't done as much as we could have in terms of foreign aid," he said.

"I'm optimistic that [Paul Martin] may bring some change, but there needs to be a lot of work to repair the damage, too, and he needs to keep that in mind."

RAHIM JAFFER,
ALLIANCE MP

However, Jaffer is hopeful that, if Paul Martin is elected as Canada's next Prime Minister, he will effect positive change in the area of foreign affairs.

"One thing [Paul Martin] has identified as an area to work on is the strengthening of our relationship with the US," said Jaffer. "Also, in our role internationally, it seems that he feels Canada should exercise more of a presence in the Middle East, and that's something [the Alliance Party] has been saying all along. I'm optimistic that he may bring some change, but there needs to be a lot of work to repair the damage, too, and he needs to keep that in mind."

Head shave raises money for cancer research

UZMA RAJAN
News Writer

If you were in HUB mall on Friday, you might have found the floors to be a little hairier than usual.

No, the student population isn't balding due to exam stress; those clumps of hair were the result of the Ismaili Students' Association (ISA) Head Shave for Cancer, an annual event done in partnership with HUB mall's Stylistics Hair Group to raise awareness and funds for the Canadian Cancer Society.

This is the third year that the ISA has held their Head Shave, in which students are encouraged to donate money for cancer research in exchange for the closest haircut of their lives. The event has met with great success in the past, most notably last year, when they raised over \$4000.

Approximately 20 people shaved their heads this year and, thanks to the many supporters there cheering the participants on, the event was a success.

ISA President Tariq Remtulla explained that the reason people are so willing to participate is because cancer research is a cause "everyone feels passionately about."

"Regardless of the amount of money that we raised, the fact that we did it is most important," he said.

Shermene Pradhan, Member External of the ISA and the organizer of the Head Shave, said no matter who puts on the event, getting people on campus involved in charitable organizations is an important thing to do.

"Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada, so it's just a good way of getting out there and supporting those affected by it," she explained.

Al-nur Pradhan, a student who raised over \$400 during the event, explained that supporting charitable organizations like the Canadian Cancer Society is important, as without funding and awareness, research would not be able to continue and a cure would not be found, he explained.

Like Pradhan, who has had two family members affected by the disease, cancer is all too grim a reality for many of the participants on hand Friday. Andrew Chung had a friend pass away from cancer.

"I was scared, but I love my hair," Chung admitted. For him, it was worth the initial fear to be able to support what he feels is a worthy cause.

For the lone female participant, Michelle McRorie, shaving her head seemed like a "neat idea and a good

way to show support" for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Another participant, Alykhan Visram, explained that it's important for student organizations to organize charitable fundraisers.

"You can raise a lot more money and awareness if you do with a huge group of people, so that's why I think it's up to the student associations to do stuff like this," he said. "Plus, whatever charity they're sponsoring gets a lot more recognition if they do it through a student association, because it's made into a big event."

The ISA is a student-run organization for Ismaili Muslims on campus. Its purpose is to provide its members with religious, social, and educational events so they can gain the full university experience alongside their peers.



BARING IT ALL FOR CANCER Aly Visram gets his head shaved by Gina Clarke.

IBIS TSE



The University of Alberta Students' Union
Revolutionary Speakers Series
and the Parkland Institute
Challenging Empire Conference
Present



Tickets:
Earth's General Store
10832 82 Ave
Audrey's Books
10702 Jasper Ave
Kunitz Shoes
837 Saddleback Rd
Laurie Greenwood's Volume II
12433 102 Ave
Parkland Institute
11045 Saskatchewan Dr

NOV 14 7:30 pm
MICHAEL
PARENTI

Democratic Sovereignty and the Arrogance of Empire

NOV 16 3:30 pm
Naomi
KLEIN

Economic Terror, Deep Democracy

HOROWITZ
THEATRE
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPUS

NOV 25 CHUCK D
www.RevolutionarySpeakers.com



STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

NOVEMBER 13 2003

YOUR ACADEMIC LIFE



Yo! My name is Janet Lo, and I'm your VP Academic for this school year. As your VP Academic, I have been relegated to the wonderfully exciting tasks of handling your academic concerns and communicating these to the University. To do so, I have the advantage of being "in" on University processes.

So here are some things that are grooving on my plate:

GENERAL FACULTIES' COUNCIL (GFC)

General Faculties' Council is the highest academic governing body on campus, and is responsible for:

- All academic policies on campus
- Creating, deciding, and changing all programs and degree requirements
- Reports from the President and all major departments of the U of A

Did you know that undergraduate students have 38 of the 145 voting seats on GFC? (Not including your undergraduate BoG rep, SU President, VP External, and VP Academic.)

Your reps are:

AFHE (Hannah Davis),
ARTS (Alex Abboud, Mathew Johnson, Heather Wallace, Samantha Power, Mustafa Hirji, Terra Melynky, Shawn Hildebrandt),
BUSINESS (Steve Smith, Kelly Herregodts, Joanne Ing),
EDUCATION (Christine Wudarch, Trevor Panas, Jon Kakish, Amanda Morris, Matthew Larsen),
ENGINEERING (David Weppeler, Louis Bezuideinhout, Mathieu Johnson, Chris Jones),
FACULTE ST JEAN (Zita Dube), LAW (Dean Hutchison),
MED/DENT (Brad Hnatuk, Hussein Pirani),
NATIVE STUDIES (Tracy Bear Coon),
NURSING (Judy Smolak),
PHARMACY (Teneille Metz),
PHYS ED & REC (Anna Grimsrud),
REHAB MED (Sarah Schultis),
SCIENCE (Kimberly Williams, Justin Kehoe, Matt Bogda, Deepti Damaraju, Erin Cameron, Tereza Elyas, Rob Flook, Baber Khatib)

Your Councilors have the ability to ask written and oral questions of this University's Senior Administration on any issue. A written question requires a written response, so start asking your representatives questions to pass on!

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS (COFA)

Your Faculty Associations (FAs) are in important positions in your academic life: they sit on committee levels on the Faculty-level that discuss your program, courses offered, and changes to academic requirements of your degree. Additionally, FAs also offer faculty-specific services that can prove very useful to you during your academic career.

As such, it is important to foster a good working relationship between FAs and the SU, and this can be done by identifying needs and strengths and building on these. Much like the SU, consistency and accountability are needed for FAs to function effectively. I intend to keep working with CoFA to improve political advocacy and events at both the FA and SU level by mutual cooperation.

REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

As you have likely heard by now, Bear Tracks will be off-line from November 7th to November 17th for an upgrade. As such, the Students' Union service Bear Scat will also be off-line, and we hope to have the service up and running soon after the upgraded Bear Tracks goes live.

Don't forget BearScat: <https://bearscat.su.ualberta.ca> to make registration and schedule designing easier.

Bear Scat

IMPROVING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A major item that will be effective January 2004 that affects each and every one of you are GFC Policy changes to course outlines. As of January 2004, the major components of your course outline can only be changed with "general class consent or fair warning."

GET INVOLVED!

The only way to get the most out of your University experience is to get involved. Learning goes beyond the classroom and out of labs and seminars - it goes right into the community that exists around you.

So here's the deal: every THURSDAY at 2 to 330 pm, starting TODAY, your SU Executives will be on SUB Stage to talk to YOU. And we want you to come out and tell us what you want us to do. And for your time and troubles, we can definitely provide coffee. Who doesn't like coffee??? Who doesn't like griping???

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE
492.4236

President: **Mat Brechtel**
president@su.ualberta.ca
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Vice-President Operations & Finance: **Tyler Botten**
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Vice-President Student Life: **Jadene Mah**
vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca

UPCOMING SU EVENTS:

Nov. 13: Dentistry-Pharmacy @ 4th floor lounge
Nov. 14: Revolutionary Speakers Series
Michael Parenti @ Myer Horowitz
Nov. 14: Medicine & Nursing Gripe Table @ "the Fishbowl"
Nov. 15: Uncas Old Boys
@ Powerplant with Wowzers, Grassroot
Nov. 16: Revolutionary Speakers Series
Naomi Klein @ Myer Horowitz
Nov. 18: Business Gripe Table
Nov. 18: A Bill 43 Fable
@ Alberta Legislature 12:30 PM, free hot chocolate
Nov. 20: Antifreeze Registration
@ SUBstage - 4:30 PM deadline
Nov. 20: Law Gripe Table @ Student Lounge
Nov. 21: Agriculture-Forestry Gripe Table
Nov. 21: Arts Gripe Table
Nov. 22: Hidden Cameras
@ Powerplant
Nov. 25: Revolutionary Speakers Series
Chuck D @ Myer Horowitz
Nov. 25: Phys Ed & Rec Gripe Table
Nov. 25: Rehab Med Gripe Table
Nov. 27: Engineering Gripe Table @ ETL
Nov. 29: Robin Hunter & His Six Foot Bullies
CD Release Party @ Powerplant
Dec. 1: Science Gripe Table
Dec. 2: Arts Gripe Table
Dec. 5: SU Kids' Christmas Party
@ SUBstage; contact sac@su.ualberta.ca for more info

ENTER FOR YOUR MONTHLY
CHANCE TO WIN GREAT PRIZES

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Send to or drop off at 2-900 SUB, Edmonton AB T6G 2J7
Draw date: November 30, 2003



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS'
UNION

Remember why we remember

ONE YEAR AFTER THE END OF THE GREAT WAR, countries of the Commonwealth celebrated Armistice Day, a celebration of the end of the war, and the subsequent freedom this brought to countries in the western world. In the years following the war, at 11am on 11 November, people would stop everything and observe a minute of silence in remembrance of those who died for that freedom.

As the years went by, and more wars were fought, Armistice Day was changed to Remembrance Day, and the focus of the holiday was to remember the atrocities that took place during the wars, the people who fought and gave their lives.

In the United States, however, 11 November is observed as Veteran's Day. While this may seem to be the same as our holiday, its name signals a distinct rift between the Canadian and American observances.

To me, Remembrance Day asks us to recall the wars that have taken place over the last 85 years, from WWI through to the current war in Iraq. Veteran's day, however, serves to honour the veterans who fought in the wars. As a result, the American holiday glorifies the wars by rewarding those who fought and survived.

While there hasn't been a global war for over 50 years, this isn't a reason to stop remembering. Currently, thousands of troops, from the US and other countries, are stationed in Iraq after the US led a coalition army to "free" Iraqi citizens from someone George W Bush deemed "a tyrant and a terrorist."

While I do not believe that Saddam Hussein was a peaceful or sane man, I think there are thousands of innocent Iraqis that had no affiliation with either Hussein or the United States. By invading Iraq and forcing their ideals on the Iraqi people, the US government has proved they are not the international peace-keepers they claim to be. Invading another country is an act of aggression, and the war in Iraq was a war the US instigated.

By turning a blind eye to the casualties that are a result of their invasion, the United States government is on its way to repeating what the idea behind Remembrance Day is trying to discourage: armed conflicts and loss of lives. If the US would take a moment and reflect on previous wars, as Canada's Remembrance Day promotes, they might realize that war isn't always the best course of action.

If people took a moment to reflect on why there is an internationally observed holiday on 11 November, they'll recall the many horrible events have taken place in our history, and the thousands of innocent people who lost their lives. Maybe then we would be less inclined to repeat the same mistakes.

SHAWN BENBOW
Photo Editor

Journal, we get it already, please shut up

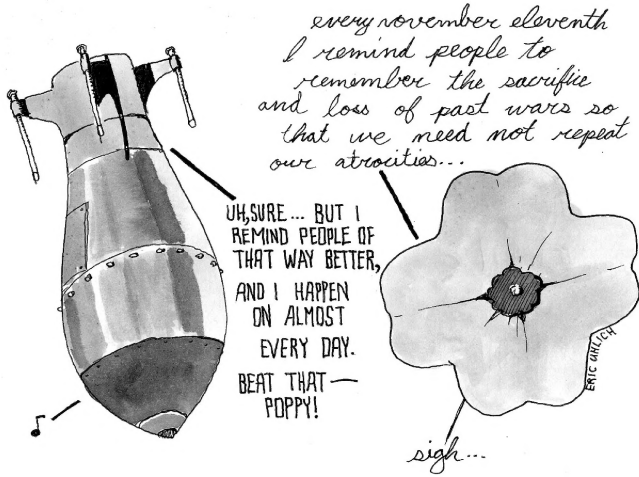
YESTERDAY YOU MAY HAVE READ THAT THE *Journal*'s celebrating 100 years of existence. Two days ago you might have read the same thing. Last Sunday, ditto. All summer: the same. This is a message to the *Journal*: we get that your paper has been around for 100 years. Spiffy. You've patted yourself on the back, now please move on.

Don't get me wrong, I think that the anniversary was a perfect time for you to launch your redesign, and I found your frontpage retrospective interesting, although I wasn't sure why it went on for three months. The huge supplement was also readable, but I wondered why it deserved as much recognition as the rest of the paper. But I was truly confused why the *Journal* turning 100 warranted the top story on the front of the paper two days in a row.

What was an interesting retrospective has transmuted into a self-congratulatory pat on the back. Next time you get through a piece, please keep in mind that your readers probably don't care as much about your papers as you.

This, of course, isn't to say that when the *Gateway* turns 100, we won't be shooting fireworks out of our asses, mind you. See you in 2010.

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor



LETTERS

Where's the story, Gateway?

Has the *Gateway* done a piece on the new way to generate electricity discovered by Daniel Kwok and Larry Kostuk? Did I miss it? Its been at least I week since I heard of it (on the national news) and have been anxiously waiting to hear what our university has to say about it.

I mean come on, is an acknowledgment of this incredible discovery too much to ask? This should have been front-page news the first day their work was published by the Institute of Physics' *Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering*. If I'm wrong and you have written something I'm sorry but if you haven't, why?

COLIN WENGBERGER
Science III

Disrespect isn't your ticket to respect, genius

During my EDPY 404 last week, a good number of the students decided to confront our prof on his teaching style, the largest complaint being poor use of classroom time.

To be fair, our prof does not re-teach the textbook and instead will answer questions pertaining to the textbook and the current topic being assigned. Class is essentially a Q-and-A period as opposed to him reiterating the text in lecture form. Apparently our prof received a number of e-mails questioning his methods and he began to explain his teaching style and the way he assigns grades.

Instead of participating in what could have been a mature and pro-

ductive conversation, what seemed to be a majority of the students decided to engage in what was essentially a group bully session, during which the prof's teaching ability was questioned in a way that was insulting and unprofessional. Keep in mind that this is a classroom of 60 future teachers engaging in behaviour that they would never expect or tolerate from their own future students.

To resort basically to telling your professor to fuck off shouldn't be acceptable in any classroom, let alone a class geared towards individuals who will be educating our children in the very near future.

What an embarrassment. Is it any wonder that teachers these days receive such little respect from students, politicians, and a significant portion of the general population? Never have I felt so ashamed and disgusted at the behaviour of some of my fellow students. How do we dare walk into a classroom and demand respect from our students when we ourselves cannot give the same to our own educators?

This was not a situation in which our prof exhibited gross negligence, disrespect, or rudeness to us. This was simply a matter of a disagreement in learning styles and teaching styles. It is one thing to dislike a certain assignment, a certain way in which a subject is taught, or the way in which grades are assigned. Fine. Send an e-mail. Discuss it after class, one on one. Write a letter. Wait until teaching evaluations come around at the end of term.

It is completely unacceptable that, as a group, we attacked our professor, embarrassed him, degraded him, and, unbelievably, resorted to telling him to "shut the fuck up," as I believe it was so eloquently put in class that day. How childish and how very, very unprofessional! I'll breathe

a sigh of relief when this class comes to an end and I no longer have to sit next to people I'm ashamed to be associated with.

For those of you who participated in the "discussion" that day and plan on entering the teaching profession in a year or so: best of luck. I can only hope that you're not one of my colleagues.

LAURA DUNN
Secondary Education IV

Gateway misleads reader

On Tuesday, 4 November, I picked up the newest edition of the *Gateway* for one major reason: On the front page was a picture of the Dropkick Murphys, a band I had just seen at Red's on the Saturday before.

I was very excited to pick up the paper, but as I quickly rummaged through it, I realized there was no story at all about the show. I didn't understand why this picture was on the front page enticing me to read, when I later found that there was nothing more about the gig in the paper, aside from a second picture, under which the caption was wrong [saying that the show was on Friday, when really it was Saturday]. Was there no one to write a story on this show, and if not, why was the picture not only in the paper, but on the front page? I just didn't understand why there was someone available to take pictures of the show, but no one to write a story or a review.

BRADY KNICK
Education III

Seriously, Gateway, leave Lister alone

I'm starting to think that every

little thing that happens in Lister is now being reported. Is it?

I lived in Lister for two years. Quite frankly I hear more Lister gossip through the Campus Crime Beat now than I ever did while living there. I miss the good old days of the Crime Beat where people having sex in their cars and creepy old men masturbating in the libraries were being reported on. On top of that there's always way better gossip in Lister than just who got drunk and smashed a window—when you need to report the story behind the madness. Tell about how the guys on 2-Mac had a contest to see who could run into the door the hardest. Interview the witnesses about why there was a Tuesday night "Gin and Juice" party. You might even have to leave SUB for this one (I know it's a scary world out there).

Now maybe it's just me, but it sure seems like one of two things is happening here: either Lister has gone to hell this year, or Campus Crime Beat is just digging for dirt.

Either way, keep the gossip coming. I just hope for the newspaper's sake, you're getting the info from more than just 5-o.

JOEL DEFORE
Science III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Democracy is dead. Long live democracy



TREVOR
PANAS

In the past century or so, we've witnessed the rise and fall of several political and religious movements. Communism died with perestroika and glasnost, and even Jesus himself passed away when the *New York Times* announced that "God is Dead" in the middle of the last century. Still, we believed unwaveringly in the ability of our own system of governance to persevere, based as it was on the ideals of equality, responsible representation, and on its malleable and adaptive style. Sadly, as it currently stands, I believe it's quite evident that democracy is dead in this great nation.

My point is easily illustrated by a quick glance at current Canadian federal politics: our next prime minister, Paul Martin, will be selected for us by the upcoming Liberal leadership convention, the right wing is in disarray, and the NDP is, as always, quixotically tilting at the windmills of social injustice while trying to simultaneously maintain credibility as an actual political alternative while it tries to find financial support for an upcoming election campaign.

Closer to home, in the bastion of conservatism known as Alberta, we have a government with such a profound majority that voices of dissent and opposition fall unheard upon the throngs of blue in the legislature. And here's the real problem: no one seems to care. Apathy is more infectious than HIV at a monkey-fucking convention. In a country where only 63 per cent of

eligible voters exercised their right of suffrage in the last federal election, it's no wonder politicians have become increasingly removed from their actual constituents, and that both federal and provincial governments have grown more hubristic in their beliefs that they can literally ram whatever legislation they choose down our collective throats.

Closer to home, in the bastion of conservatism known as Alberta, we have a government with such a profound majority that voices of dissent and opposition fall unheard upon the throngs of blue in the legislature.

"Government of the people, by the people, for the people," as Abe Lincoln once put it, has now turned into "government of the majority party, by the leader of said party, for the status quo." Since when did democracy come to be defined by unilateral decision-making perpetuated by the existence of party whips who stifle any attempt by government members to represent the views of their actual constituents, instead forcing them to tow the party line and vote within the mandate of their party?

I'm appalled by such an overt and blatant attempt to stifle political discourse, yet we've come to accept the fact that our elected representatives no longer represent our views. Instead, they represent the views of

the party leader, and of the rest of the party members. To illustrate, you may remember the outcry over proposed legislation that would open the door to private healthcare in Alberta, and polls showed that those in favour were clearly in the minority. However, King Ralph and company passed the legislation anyway. Incidents like this only serve to fuel feelings of voter apathy and powerlessness.

Our first-past-the-post electoral scheme squelches any attempt by smaller parties to gain any influence. One might believe that the Liberals, who gathered only 41 per cent of the popular vote last federal election, should only make up 41 per cent of the decision-making body in Parliament. However, since they won in the majority of ridings, they can legislate potentially unpopular bills, even declare war without the support of the people, and no one can stop them. By allowing parties to form majority governments without majority support, we seriously undermine political debate and fair representation of all political views.

In order to restore an accountable, representative government, we must all vote. After that, throw your support behind electoral reform that would see a more proportionally accurate technique used for allocating parliamentary seats. Then throw your support behind parties that value constructive criticism and debate from within their own ranks. Activism is even more dead than democracy. It's important to realize that with that tiny ballot, we have something that others in this world are fighting and dying to obtain. It is vital that we never take that for granted, and that we continually strive to strengthen and reform our democracy, so that it may someday again be effective and truly representative of the people.

Obesity quick-fix isn't making people healthier



SARAH
HANASYK

Want to lose 30 pounds in one month? Want to be thin and beautiful like God intended? Want that cute boy in your biology class finally to notice your intelligence and charming nuances once you've lost all that disgusting weight?

Well, here I got the solution for you! No pills, no exercise, no diets consisting solely of Prozac and tapeworms, and best of all: no will power! I'd like to introduce you to a procedure known as bariatric surgery, and it's becoming all the rage in the dieting world. That's right, for as little as US \$25 000, you can literally shrink your stomach so you never feel hungry again! Don't wait, a better life can be yours!

Enticing quick fix? Maybe not, but it's the answer for many morbidly obese individuals who have struggled for years to lose 100, 200 or even 400 pounds, my cousin being one of them. I recently discovered that, upon her physician's warning, if she doesn't drastically lose an excessive amount of weight soon, her off-the-charts blood pressure will inevitably kill her. Thus, after discussion and short deliberation, gastric bypass surgery—one form of surgery for obesity—is decidedly the most logical answer. This procedure would create

"Many have wished for a quick fix, and only some are financially lucky enough to be able to get one. But there's something to be said about those who try to combat their weight gain before it gets to the status of 'morbid,' instead of waiting until the prospect of death is upon them."

a new digestive tract which would limit the amount of food (and hence calories) that can be ingested in one sitting. That's right, it's the same surgery that former Wilson-Phillips member Carrie Wilson used as her means to a smaller end.

But as someone who has not been a stranger to the pressures of attaining the female physical ideal, and who has had some life exposure to the ugliness of what eating issues and disorders can do to one's mind and body, I have become increasingly ambivalent to such a choice. Of course at this point, surgery is really the only choice, and I hope that it both saves and changes her life, but at the same time I can't help but feel a tiny pea of guilt from the reaction of the Mr Hyde inside me, which simply says: "cheater."

I believe that obesity is a disease of the mind which must be overcome in the same manner as other psychological illnesses, but I also believe that one must truly want the change to occur. This is why I have trouble dealing with this solution. Many have wished for a quick fix, and only some are financially lucky enough to be able to get one. But there's something to be said about those who try to combat their weight gain before it

gets to the status of "morbid," instead of waiting until the prospect of death is upon them.

Of course it's a struggle. If it weren't, then the entire population would be at their ideal weight. Debatably, obesity has become an epidemic, but it hasn't always been this way. So is mere laziness now a factor? The Canadian Community Health Survey shows that from 1994 to 2001, the number of obese Canadians aged 20–64 grew by 24 per cent (an increase of more than 500 000 to a total of almost 2.8 million). Currently, it is the second-leading cause of preventable death behind cigarette smoking. Since smoking is on the decline, soon it could reach number one.

It's a slap in the face to those of us who've been conscious of both good and bad body image to witness this kind of cop-out, when all the while there has been help at every turn along the way. It's not a walk in the park to lose weight and stay healthy (though, literally, it might be), but how is surgery going to change her self-image and thought patterns about food? I truly hope her life changes for the better, but I hope it changes for the right reasons. And in many ways, I hope for once this will all go to her head.

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Okay, so maybe it isn't olde-timey London, and maybe Dickens never said "radical," but he probably meant it. Volunteering for the Gateway gives you all sorts of valuable critical and creative skills. Besides, it's way more fun than shoveling coal into sacks and catching the next tramp steamer to the New World, right?

THE GATEWAY

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Caffeine is killing us with flavour

ADAM
SNIDER

his housecoat to have his wake-up smoke. Personally, I prefer a hot cup of coffee.

Yes, I admit it. I too am a caffeine addict. I need my hot cup of wake-up every morning, a mid afternoon java jolt, and an after-dinner dark roast. But just because I indulge in vice doesn't make it any less vicious. Contrary to popular opinion, I'm no saint. I can't walk on water, cure illness with a touch of the hand, or teach a man to fish and feed him for life; nor can I make coffee and caffeine addiction less sinful just because I am subjected to them. But perhaps because I am a coffee drinker myself I can better understand the detriment of caffeine addiction. I doubt Barb Tarbo's anti-caffeine stance is as sincere as mine, as much impact had she not been dying of smoking induced lung cancer. I say this not in an attempt to raise myself to the status of tragic hero, but to make the point that unless you've been there, you just don't understand.

We all know the negative side effects of tobacco, but few people realize just how insidious the effects caffeine can have on a user. Caffeine addicts regularly become violent when in need of a fix—try talking to an addict before they've had their morning coffee if you don't believe me. Road rage would be far more common if there weren't Tim Hortons or Starbucks every two blocks for caffeine junkies to pull in and get topped off. And anyone who has ever suffered the uncontrollable twitching that comes with having one too many cups of coffee knows what the stuff can do to your nervous system. Obviously, this is worse than anything tobacco ever stirred up.

While nicotine is, according to some reports, more addictive than heroin,

caffeine addiction is worse still. After all, cigarettes taste like shit; coffee tastes like God's delicious sweat. With the wide array of flavours and specialty coffees available to caffeine addicts today, is it any wonder that coffee has become the new tobacco? Add to that soft drinks and chocolate, and we've got an epidemic on our hands.

Addiction is bad, regardless of what it is that we're addicted to. Clearly, then, caffeine is society's biggest problem. After all, more people drink coffee than alcohol, and more people drink coffee than gamble. I think it's time to focus on the real problem—just as soon as I find a better way to stay awake in class.

THE BURLAP SACK

If there is anyone on campus that deserves a vicious beating more than those "Green Figurine" dipshits, well I just don't know who it is.

Brought to you by the same clever fundamentalists that inflicted those catchy "I Agree with Blair" posters on this fine University last year, the "GreenFigurine" is their latest attempt to get people to surf on over to Jesus via their website by posting ambiguous quotes like "He knew you before you were born." Then I guess he knows what's coming to him, doesn't he?

DAVID BERRY

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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Personal essay part of winning application for Student Achievement Award offered by Coca-Cola™ in co-operation with the University of Alberta and the Students' Union.

January 21, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Many years ago I heard that Coca Cola would be giving scholarship funds to the University of Alberta as a part of the Single Source Cold Beverage Agreement. I never thought that when I voted yes at home and in the province I might one day need the funds. I mean when you live at home and your parents pay for everything it's hard to see how you could ever need money. But when the time came it was paid, for nothing like this crosses your mind. To be honest, I never thought I'd have the opportunity to finish school, so I was involved in a terrible situation at home in the first few months of the year 2000. I was on Academic Probation in my faculty as I was unable to handle the adversities of previous years. My parents had given me the ultimatum of staying at home and having no money or going to university. I chose to go to university because I knew I couldn't survive if I arranged myself as I was obviously not "smart enough" for University OR leaving home and having no money. For the latter half of the year I lived off my savings and did my best to keep everything I had over income-including my brother's money. For the latter half of 1999 and first few months of 2000 I struggled with this decision and stress. It has now been twenty three years that I have May 2000 with only my books, a backpack and a suitcase. I don't know what I would do if I left home in May 2000 with only my books, a backpack and a suitcase. I don't know what I would do if I left home in May 2000 with only my books, a backpack and a suitcase. I don't know what I would do if I left home in May 2000 with only my books, a backpack and a suitcase. I don't know what I would do if I left home in May 2000 with only my books, a backpack and a suitcase.

As the University of Alberta was my saving grace in that time, I decided to devote my free time to worthwhile activities ranging from Salswark, Campus Ambassadors, Orientation, Preview Days and the Inner City Kids Christmas Parties, Amnesty International and the Campus Food Bank. I have matched references from several coordinators or executives. As happy as I am to be constructive in school for the first time in my life, my student loans reached their maximum and I am now owing \$5300.00. I will be able to pay a part of my student loans, but I will have to work two jobs for any further funding. Last semester I took only three courses as a doctor, which in total cost me nearly \$5000.00. I am in the first of a two-year after-graduate in Secondary Education. I have to complete two courses next semester. Currently, I am in the middle of my first practicum and will be teaching at a junior high school next term. The b/s side to school is more than an 18 hours, so I cannot work even an extra of what I was working last semester consists of more than 18 hours, and the five classes I am taking. I feel that there is a lot of things that I have to do in my job and this term is a challenge that I have to face. My reason for applying for the position with the City of Edmonton is to help pay my \$10603.00 occurrence and my \$3000.00 EREPS/STP fee. I am happy for taking the time to read to my application.

ADAM
ROZENHART

I'm not surprised you guys, but after I've killed someone, there's nothing more soothing than a visit to my hairstylist. It's a trim today, Jenni. No, don't worry. I don't feel like 'Highlights' today. Why thank you, I love coffee." She looks at an odd thing to do, doesn't it? Take someone's life, then drop thirty bucks on a slick dye job. You could do that, or else stuff the body in your garage and hand out Halloween candy.

Seems harmless, doesn't it? Sad and morbid, perhaps? No kidding. But this is precisely what a Chicagovan did. She poisoned her husband by lacing his soup with an excessive amount of insulin. When that didn't kill him, she repeatedly injected him with the hormone—while he was sleeping—until he died.

Forget, first of all, about the ethical and moral questions this subject obviously raises. Forget, also, that the perpetrator of the crime had gambling debts she didn't want her husband to find out about. This is just another case of people, stupidly, failing to finish what they start.

We've seen this before, haven't we? That essay you decided was less important than finding all the hidden packages in *Grand Theft Auto 3* came back to haunt you. Hell, even Yoda knows the importance of diligence. He was so concerned about Luke Skywalker's one-hour enthusiasm, he asked Obi-wan "Will he finish what he begins?"

Indeed, will any of us finish what we begin? Why is it that we are so easily distracted nowadays? Perhaps it has something to do with the monotony of many tasks we're forced to perform. Back in the good ol' days, people

dug mines, pitchforked hay, and milked cows. People still do this, obviously—Canada has a healthy population of cows who work in hay mines. But a plethora of other professions and vocations came about as a result of this Industrial Revolution everyone's talking about. As a result, we do a lot of things in fragments.

Think of the sad, pathetic assembly line worker. He just screws those Barbie doll arms on repeatedly, day after day. He doesn't even have to make a whole Barbie doll. He just does one thing. No wonder people don't finish what they begin. We're taught not to. Well, assembly line workers are taught not to, anyhow.

Hell, even Yoda knows the importance of diligence. He was so concerned about Luke Skywalker's one-hour enthusiasm, he asked Obi-wan "Will he finish what he begins?"

Of course, not everyone is a lowly procrastinator. I have it on good authority that a young, wheelchair-bound professor at Oxford is doing some amazing things in the field of physics. He doesn't suffer from any lack of attention span. I'm sure that if he killed someone he'd be intelligent enough to dispose of the evidence as soon as was convenient for him.

The point, gentle reader, is that people need to finish what they begin, no matter how pointless and boring that thing might seem. I know what you're thinking right now. You're thinking of not finishing this article. You're thinking of browsing the Opinion pages for Dave Alexander's Top Ten. Well, if that's your attitude, you boorish lout, you're no better than the lady who poisoned her husband and waited a full day before disposing of his body.





 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
 HOUSING & FOOD SERVICES

What's wrong with eating a little dog?



JAKE
TROUGHTON

Many people throughout Edmonton, particularly among those who have eaten at the Panda Garden, were no doubt relieved to learn that the carcasses found in that restaurant's freezer were coyotes rather than dogs. Very few people relish the thought of devouring someone's potential Rover, because it's, you know, icky. And the thought of devouring a dead coyote is somehow less icky.

The reason for this difference is clear: domestic dogs are morally superior to other animals, even other canines. This is because they're ... well, it's not immediately clear *why* they're morally superior, but they obviously are. Why else would people be outraged at the possibility of having them for dinner?

Perhaps it's that dogs are nicer than coyotes. After all, coyotes are vicious creatures that are potentially dangerous to humans. Dogs, on the other hand, would never attack a human unprovoked. Except, of course, on those frequent occasions that they do. Pleasantness must not be the answer. Besides, rabbits are much nicer than dogs, but they are a popular stew ingredient nonetheless.

If dogs aren't necessarily nicer than other animals, they're certainly much cuter than many, maybe it's wrong to eat cute animals. This would explain

the aversion toward eating beagles and shih tzus, but it can't explain why pugs don't make their way onto barbecues. Whatever protects these ugly, gassy snorers from the butcher, it can't possibly have anything to do with being cute. And again, the rabbit stands as a further counterexample, as their superior cuteness fails to save their tails.

If it's not that they're nice or cute, though, it's difficult to see what sets the dog apart from the edible animal kingdom. They are decidedly middle-of-the-road creatures; in terms of intelligence, size, deftness at chasing small balls, and anything else you might think of, they may be above average at times, but they are not at all unique.

Our culture's affinity for dogs is strong enough that even those who don't especially care for them still usually recoil at the thought of eating them.

There is only one thing domestic dogs are that other cutes, nicer or smarter but nonetheless frequently consumed animals—such as rabbits, lambs, even pigs—are: they're domestic. Dogs, along with cats, enjoy a special status in much of the world only because they've been given it. At some point in history, these animals were found to be especially useful or agreeable, and the lucky creatures were consequently granted a reprieve.

It's not even that dogs are particu-

larly well suited to be pets. Most make excellent companions, but so do pigs, and they are among the most devoured creatures. We just aren't attached to pigs in the same way. Our culture's affinity for dogs is strong enough that even those who don't especially care for them still usually recoil at the thought of eating them. But the only real difference between these animals is that most of us tend to like one species more than the other.

Because dogs are so common in our society, people empathize with their suffering. Chances are they or someone they know have loved a dog. The idea of eating a dog sickens most people because they can see the connection between their plate and their loved ones. The dog they'd be eating would suffer just the same as Fido would, and few people are comfortable with that.

Pigs suffer too, but they haven't been conditioned to empathize with their pain. Many people have never met a pig, and very few have spent enough time with one to grow attached to it. As a result, hardly anyone has developed an aversion to eating them. Their pain doesn't affect people on the level a dog's does. But they hurt just the same.

There is no ethical difference here. If it's okay to eat a side of bacon, it's just as acceptable to have a Spot steak; those who would have the former but not the latter should ask themselves why. If the pig's pain is justified, isn't little Sparky's as well? Whether you eat meat or not, it should be clear that the difference between the cases is purely a human invention. Dogs aren't better than pigs; they're just more popular.

Bush should keep his staff in check if he wants to earn the world's trust



JAMES
EELFORD

If you thought holy wars were just for Islamic radicals, think again. It's not just bearded jihadis who are draping geopolitics, terrorism and war in the poisonous cloth of self-righteous religious intolerance: there's also Lieutenant General William "Jerry" Boykin. While this kind of spiritual posturing could normally be brushed aside as the ramblings of someone exercising their freedom of religion like they were going to lose it, Boykin happens to be the deputy under-secretary of defense for intelligence. Because of that, he should have been fired.

For those too caught up in Joe Millionaire 2's steamy European debauchery to keep up/learn on Christian zealotry, it was recently revealed that Boykin made some controversial statements to evangelical Christian congregations. He did this both before and after his promotion to this high-ranking policy position—reportedly at least once in uniform.

While past religious expressions by military officers have rarely been censured, their comments are still under stricter controls than those of a civilian, especially when those comments bring into question the ability to properly perform their duties of high-level policy making. Boykin didn't just affirm his apolitical love for Jesus, and

"Bush could wear an 'I love Allah' pin and shoot a special Ramadan laser light-show out of his eyes, but this won't mean anything if he sends mixed messages by keeping someone with an almost crusader-like view working on the ridiculous so-called War on Terror."

that's the problem.

The questionable comments included such gems as stating that the War on Terror was a "spiritual battle" where "Satan wants to destroy this nation, he wants to destroy us as a nation, and he wants to destroy us as a Christian army" and claiming that he knew he would capture a Somali warlord because "I knew that my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol." I'm sure that the caring, loving Jesus he believes in would be proud.

For a government so concerned with winning the hearts and minds of the world's Muslims, the Bush administration seems to have trouble understanding that such a policy takes more than verbal affirmations. Bush could wear an "I love Allah" pin and shoot a special Ramadan laser light-show out of his eyes, but this won't mean anything if he sends mixed messages by keeping someone with an almost crusader-like view working on the ridiculous so-called War on Terror. Comments like Boykin's only provide further fire to the arguments of the radicals and plays into their presentation of the war as a clash between Islam and Christianity. Regardless of whether or not Boykin has the right to hold such beliefs, the fact that he voiced them has now inexorably com-

promised his position within the Bush administration. If the Bush administration wants to send a clear message about this, then Boykin must go.

While Bush rightly criticized the paranoid cabalist accusations of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as "wrong and divisive," he seems less upset by Boykin's comments. If Bush felt he had the right to give the head of a sovereign state a talking to, why didn't he also act upon similarly damaging comments from a member of his own government? Not only would he be within his right to remove Boykin for actively voicing an opinion contrary to the stated opinion of the administration, but this would also help prove that his positive comments about Islam weren't empty words.

While Bush's stated policy is a necessary part of trying to win over Muslims, there are plenty of members of the Bush administration whose strong religious beliefs are well known—from the President himself to John "I apparently get anointed-in-oil-by-my-father-before-I-take-office-because-the-bible-says-so" Ashcroft. If this is the case, then it might be time to start getting scared; these kinds of theological pissing contests never seem to end without bloodshed of Biblical proportions.

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Year of the bike a bad year for cyclists



**RYAN
WILLIAMS**

After 20 years, I finally managed to get my hands on the only useful form of transportation in this city: a car. My 1992 Daytona ES comes with many features that allow me to beat the frigid weather: a roof, four wheels, and a motor that will get me further than three blocks without leaving me out of breath. Sadly, even though I said I would continue to ride my bike after I bought my vehicle, it now sits in the garage, cold, lonely, and sad.

I don't ride it because there's nowhere to ride that can be easily accessed by bike, furthered also by the strong likelihood that my bike will be jacked by the first person out of the University station looking to make the pages of Campus Crime Beat.

The Students' Union has proclaimed this "The Year Of The Bike." But unfortunately, it'll probably just end up to be another "Year of walking, taking the bus, and driving." Bikes disappear from campus bike racks quicker than franchise restaurants disappear from SUB. So far the best solution police and campus 5-0 have come up with is a program to register bike serial numbers. This, unfortunately, will not deter criminals from swiping bikes. If they're stupid enough to steal a bike in the first place, then they're probably too stupid to know (or care) that the serial numbers are being traced.

There's such a concept as "the circle of bikes" in the BMX community; up to three bikes are stolen, and their parts interchanged. Frames are usually repainted, which is okay, because most aftermarket BMX frames are sold legitimately with no decals on them. Serial numbers can be scratched off stolen parts, but most thieves don't even bother. Even if you did have your bike returned, it most likely wouldn't be the bike stolen from you to begin with.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NICK WEBB
Bike paths are hard to come by.

The university should consider moving bike racks away from potential hotspots, and build more areas for bike storage. The one at the north end of HUB mall is a prime example. I'd rather pay a fee to keep my bike inside a fenced area with a security camera than pay to register serial numbers.

Cyclists also have to deal with

problems other than theft. Edmonton Transit is one of the main proponents of cyclist unfriendliness. According to ETS, bikes are allowed only on bus routes 1, 4, and 9. Bikes aren't even allowed on the LRT during peak hours. I've witnessed a train wait at a station while the driver kicked a cyclist off, who then had to wait an hour until peak time was over. Our transit system is discouraging us from using an alternative form of transportation.

The general lack of infrastructure is also a deterrent to cyclists. I can't ride six blocks from my house without running out of sidewalk. I'm certainly not riding in traffic; it's hard enough just to drive in it. Many major thoroughfares in my area are not accompanied by sidewalks. You may also find it surprising that bikes with certain larger sized tires aren't allowed on sidewalks. In this case bike paths would be the only safe alternative. Only one new bike path has been built in the last two years, between stadium station and 97th street. Stupidly, this path has been cleared only once since the snow fell.

All of this proves it's just easier to drive, take the bus, or walk to a destination. The unresponsive University administration and City of Edmonton have inadvertently made it this way. I'm sure their bike path to hell was paved with good intentions, but they haven't successfully alleviated or spawned solutions to problems currently facing cyclists. Because of their shortsightedness, my bike is no longer a form of transportation, but a way for me to injure myself attempting 360s and bar spins. My lack of skill, however, isn't as frustrating as getting across the city using pedal power used to be. Long live the Daytona!

SALUTE

Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Teaching

SALUTE was developed by Students' Council to promote and encourage excellence in teaching by recognizing faculty members who make outstanding contributions in their roles as undergraduate instructors at the University of Alberta.

Eligibility

All instructors of undergraduate courses are eligible for nomination. Nominees for the Award should have taught a minimum of three *3 sections, one of which has been taught in the current academic year.

Nomination

All nominations must be made by students. Information regarding a professors eligibility can be obtained from the Department office and will be verified by the Students' Union. Nominations must include signatures of support from at least ten current students. Maximum three letters of support from faculty, alumni and students may be included.

All nominations are strictly confidential and will be made available to the selection committee only.

Criteria

Understanding that outstanding teachers come in all shapes and sizes, there is no strict eligibility criteria and we encourage nominations which you, as a student, feel are worthy of recognition.

Examples include:

- generates a desire for continued learning
- availability outside of the classroom
- respects differences in student approaches to learning
- is flexible enough to accommodate differences in the rate of student learning
- displays role-model characteristics
- communicates clearly
- is organized and prepared for lectures

- is sympathetic to student concerns and lifestyles
- has developed appropriate lectures, readings, assignments and exams
- demonstrates fair and consistent assessment of course work
- has good knowledge of subject matter and awareness of new information
- inspires critical thinking
- acts as a student advisor in department
- contributes to development of teaching and learning in the greater university community.

Application Deadline: Monday, February 2, 2004, 5:00 p.m.

For further information contact Catherine van de Braak at 492-4236.

Application packages are available at the Students' Union Executive offices (room 2-900 SUB), SUB, CAB, and HUB Info Desks, Faculty Association Offices and at www.su.ualberta.ca/awards.



Canadian military still living in the past



BEVAN BURNS

It's no secret that Canada's armed forces have fallen behind the world standard. Our numbers are lower than they have been in a long time and all too often we find ourselves utterly unprepared and ill-equipped for the tasks at hand. From sending out troops to fight desert warfare in Afghanistan with jungle green camouflage to our underarmoured light jeeps, which seem to be dropping left right and centre in Iraq, our military never seems to be quite up to par. But perhaps our most embarrassing military failure is the service record of our very own Sea King helicopters.

Now I'll be the first to argue that taxpayers' money is much better spent on social programs than on expanding the military. Getting education to our young people and healthcare to our old people is much more worthwhile than bombing the shit out of fellow humans across the world.

But as anti-military as I'd like to be, I recognize the necessity of some kind of military force in this seemingly archaic international system. And while I don't believe we should ever expand our forces to the point where we can conduct large scale operations on our own, I think the existing forces should be as well equipped as possible. This includes having safe, reliable helicopters, so we can at least have a little fun sub-hunting when not on search and rescue missions.

The Sea Kings, though, have gone

from being merely inadequate to being downright dangerous, and everyone knows it. Crew members have been seen wearing patches on their uniforms emblazoned with the silhouette of a Sea King over top of a Maple Leaf with the confidence-inspiring slogan, "Flying yesterday's aircraft tomorrow."

But as anti-military as I'd like to be, I recognize the necessity of some kind of military force in this seemingly archaic international system.

Canadian military officials have ordered the helicopters grounded for all but critical missions pending a full investigation into two separate incidents involving Sea King helicopters losing power in mid-flight. Fortunately, no one was injured in either incident, but this isn't always the case, as evidenced by an incident in February involving a Sea King slamming into the deck of the HMCS

Inroquois in the Persian Gulf, injuring three crew members.

Having such antiquated behemoths still flying is no longer merely a national embarrassment; their continued operation represents a clear and present danger to our own troops and crew members and to the civilians and personnel from other militaries who share a theatre of operations with the Sea King. Our navy personnel deserve more than to have to struggle with these flying junk-buckets that require up to thirty hours in the shop for every hour of flight time. If my old Camry needed that kind of repair time to keep me on the road, I'd have replaced in long ago, or at least given up the pretense of being able to drive.

The bottom line is that the Canadian military cannot afford to keep limping away so many resources, both capital and human, towards keeping such useless aircraft in the sky. Either buy new aircraft that will perform at acceptable levels, or get out of the helicopter-flying business altogether. Either way, scrap those old Sea Kings so they won't be a dangerous embarrassment to our soldiers anymore. It's just not worth the cost.

'Plant washrooms inaccessible



PHIL HEAD

For years, the Students' Union has been giving the provincial government flack about the accessibility of education, while concurrently ignoring lack of accessibility in an issue much closer to the hearts of your average student: drinking.

It comes as a great surprise that neither of the two SU-owned pilsner purveyors contain wheelchair accessible washrooms, despite the fact that both contain the ramps and elevators necessary for the disabled to gain access to the premises. Considering the diuretic effects of ethanol consumption, speedy access to washrooms is arguably one of the most important features of a bar.

The current situation is discriminatory to the disabled, particularly at the Plant, which is more than an elevator's ride away from a urination location. The Plant plays host to a myriad of performances, in addition to providing liquid and solid sustenance. Thus the disabled are not only deprived drinks, but also entertainment. Theoretically, increasing accessibility to the Plant will make more money for the SU in the long term, thus paying for the necessary renovation costs. Why not simply position washrooms in place of the perpetually underplayed racing arcade games in the pool-playing portion of the bar? Individuals with permanent disabilities should have the same right to liver destruction as the next guy.

Why should the more mobile among us put up with the inconvenience and noise of any renovations which would inevitably occur? Simply put, because all of the pub's patrons would benefit from the proximity of washrooms on the main floor. Currently, your average inebriated person must avoid breaking several vertebrae while stumbling down the long narrow staircases to the washroom. Although this can act as an effective sobriety test, it is not one you want to fail. It's hardly fair to expect people who have drunk themselves to the point of paralysis and amnesia to find their way to those subterranean vaults of excrement disposal.

Wheelchair-accessible washrooms are perfect for those experiencing the effects of ethanol-related disability. The wide areas are perfect for the easy maneuvering of drinks by their bodies to the porcelain portal. The railings mounted on the sides of the stalls also do wonders to steady one while standing (hopefully only a concern for the guys). The wider stalls are also perfect for those impromptu drunken make-out sessions, increasing the comfort and maneuverability without compromising privacy. And maybe while a washroom on the main floor, people could save vital seconds and manage to deposit their vomit in the general vicinity of the bowl and not in the sink, as I've had frequent occasion to observe.

The University has already raised the bar in terms of converting campus into a reasonably accessible space. Since the SU seems intent on indoctrinating the campus on the joys of alcoholism (through the ever-prominent sponsorship from Kokanee and affiliated pals), the least they can do to make it easier to puke in peace at their largest licensed establishment.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Hip hop medical conditions

- 10 Defness
- 9 Boombastic Fibrosis
- 8 In Da Clubb
- 7 Biggie Smalls Pox
- 6 Mumpz
- 5 Clockoma
- 4 Spinal Meningizzze
- 3 Rapilepsy
- 2 Cold Chillin' in Effect
- 1 Cancer (Featuring Jay-Z, Nas, Lil' Kim, and G-Unit)

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Saturday Nov 29

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EARLY SHOW, DOORS 7:00PM, SHOW 7:30PM

The Powerplant is a service of Your Students' Union for UofA Students, staff, alumni, and their guests. All shows are no minors.

THE PEPRALLY

Hockey

Once again, here come the uncinate **Bears** (8-0-0), baby. This time, they're out in fruity Saskatoon to meet the "don't call us fat" University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Bet you thought I was going to use a dog joke there, didn't you, you simple fools.

Friday night's game starts at 6pm our time, and in a Hitchcockian plot twist, Saturday's game is at *exactly the same time*. And praise the benevolent and almighty Allah, Bob "I also work for TEAM 1260" Stauffer can be heard doing the play-by-play on **CISR FM88** for both. Give it to me Hot Stauff, give it to me all Friday and Saturday night long.

Let's say you think we only have one undefeated hockey team around the University, the **Pandas** (6-0-0) are hanging around this weekend to show you their particular brand of old-time radness. They look to poach themselves some University of Lethbridge Prognorms Friday at 7pm in the arena formerly known as Clare Drake, and again Saturday at *exactly the same time* in *exactly the same place*. Bum, bum BAH!

Volleyball

The boys that put the "volleyball" in the phrase "there are some guys in University that play volleyball," those lovable **Bears** (2-0), are in action this weekend. They are the Persians to the Trinity Western Spartans 7pm Friday in the Main Gym, then again at 7pm Saturday in the Main Gym. In case you don't get that earlier reference, the Persians brutally slaughtered a bunch of Spartan warriors during a war in Ancient Greece. at around 500 BC, so basically I'm implying that Trinity Western is going to get slaughtered.

The docile yet fierce **Pandas** (2-1) travel to Manitoba in an effort to run the University of Manitoba Bisons off a cliff so that they hurtle to a brutal and untimely death. Let's hope none of them sneak down underneath the cliff for a better look, and tragically get their heads smashed in on Friday at 5pm or again Saturday at 5pm.

Basketball

Due to a minor case of writer's block, the **Pandas** (0-2) don't get a clever intro to their section. Perhaps if they pick up their first win on this road trip, either by rapping and pillaging the University of Victoria Vikes Friday at 7:30pm or by stealing the thunder from the UBC Thunderbirds Saturday at 8:30pm, I'll try harder to get them a witty and inspiring blurb.

Meanwhile, the **Bears** (2-0), who have as of late been running over the competition like a treadmill, will also head out to BC to smoke more than salmon or illegal plants. They get ready to bring the pain against the Vikes at 9:15pm Friday then take the trip, gas-guzzling Thunderbirds to the scrappy yard Saturday also at 9:15pm.

Me Mocking the Flames; As well, Joel Chury

Even God makes mistakes, as evidenced both by the continued existence of Calgary as well as the fact that I erroneously reported that the Oilers were playing the Flames last week.

As it turns out, it is this week that the Flame-twas traveled to the rightly-named "City of Champions" in an effort to lose. Watch out for my boy Raffi Torres, who is hotter than a hundred degrees with his coat on of late, as well as "Rad-ek" "Czechmate" Dvorak, on his skills you've never seen before.

Also, Montreal gets to join the list of cities that bow down to Edmonton's dominance after the Grey Cup. It isn't as fun to mock the Alouettes, as there are no ex-Montrealers here at The Gateway so I would just like to point out once again how much everything that is Calgary sucks, including so-called "Sports Editor" Joel "I suck" Chury.

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Sports God/Propagandist



THE BANNER BOYS The Golden Bears soccer team pose with their well-deserved gold medals and the school's newest CIS championship banner. COURTESY OF ANDREW DOBROWOLSKY

Soccer Bears win CIS gold in OT thriller

Victory marks first National Soccer Championship for the Golden Bears since 1979

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Good things come to those who wait, and for Golden Bears soccer head coach Len Vickery, 19 years was long enough. For the first time since 1979, the Bears soccer program is bringing home a CIS National Soccer Championship following Sunday's thrilling 2-1 victory over the St Mary's Huskies in Molson Stadium in Montreal.

After a grueling weekend that saw the Bears play three games in four days, the win in the gold medal game was especially sweet not only for the team, but for Vickery as well, whose coaching had led the Bears to the nationals four times before, only to come up silver each time.

"This win is as much for [the silver medal winning alumni] as it is for the present group of players," said Vickery. "In the past, we've had outstanding teams that played well in the Canada West season, and certainly three out of the four [previous final appearances] we were the better team on the day, but unfortunately

didn't get the breaks."

Winning was in the cards for this year's squad from the beginning. After defeating both the strong UBC and Trinity Western sides 4-0 and 2-1 respectively in the Canada West final, the Bears got the needed help in Montreal to get into the final. Winning their half against Concordia 2-0 and drawing Western 1-1 was all that was needed to make the gold medal game.

After surrendering a brilliantly struck free-kick goal from St Mary's star midfielder Mesut Mert, the Bears quickly answered back with a goal of their own off the foot of defender Neil Morrow. The game remained tied throughout the second half and into the second frame of extra time, until Bears rookie forward John "Junior" Castroll scored the winner on a pass from defender Andreas Rasmussen.

The Danish-born Rasmussen, along with fifth-year midfielder Colin Rietveld will be the only players that won't be returning for next year's campaign. "We knew going into this year that we didn't have a single player who had expe-

rienced a Canada West championship, let alone a National championship," said Vickery. "Now we'll start next season with close to 18 or 19 players with those experiences."

The experience didn't end on the field, as the celebration continued on into the Montreal night. "They had a tremendous release [after the game]," added Vickery. "They went out, had a good meal on the Sunday evening in Montreal, and headed to the nightclub to release a little more energy."

Vickery rested assured that his team celebrated within the bounds of good behaviour. The coach himself shared part of the night with his team. "[I only had] a partial night out," said Vickery. "I'm getting a little bit older than the players, in the past I could've perhaps hung in with them throughout the full evening but decided to call it quits before midnight."

Luckily for the school's soccer program, Vickery won't be calling it quits as coach anytime soon, as this is just the beginning of what could be a string of greatness for the Golden Bears.

Heartbreak for Bears in Canada West football final

Remarkable season ends at the hands of the Simon Fraser Clan in Saturday's Hardy Cup

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

Though the Simon Fraser Clan only has three members from Alberta, two of their provincial travellers came back to end the Bears' turnaround football season in Saturday's Hardy Cup.

The play of Clan runningback Marty Kipps (from Lloydminster) and wide receiver Brendan Mahoney (from Cochrane) made all the difference in the 28-18 Bears loss. While the Bears were able to contain the deep threat of Mahoney for most of the game, Kipps created problems on the ground, thanks to an overpowering offensive line. And although Alberta took a 10-8 lead in the third quarter off receiver Andrew Gunther's 45-yard touchdown reception, Kipps continued to rack up yardage, setting up two more SFU field goals for a 14-10 Clan lead. Kipps finished the game with 215 yards rushing, while Mahoney later caught a 79-yard strike for a touchdown, and would finish with 161 yards receiving.

"Even though we were only down by two at the half, we weren't playing solid football," Bears head coach Jerry Friesen admitted after the relatively uneventful 5-3 first half. The offense sputtered after an effective opening series that ended in Bears runningback Jarred Winkel's fumble deep in SFU territory. "After those breaks, you could feel the wagon falling

apart. It showed the troubles of playing catch-up football," Friesen reflected.

The Bears clawed their way back with slotback Dustin Jarvis's late game score, but they never were able to mount a consistent offensive attack. Winked, the Canada West MVP, was limited to 96 yards rushing, and with starting pivot Darryl Salmon out once again with a shoulder injury, the team stuck with short passing patterns behind the relatively untested arm of backup Cam Linke, but found little success.

The Clan also looked to be playing conservative football until early in the final frame. Known as a "big play" team, the Clan lived up to their reputation, with Kipps putting the game out of reach on a 56-yard scamper for a score. "I have to give credit to the offensive line. They were opening up huge holes for me. They were dominating," Kipps explained. Kipps and his Clan will continue on to the Uteck bowl this weekend against the defending Vancouvier cup champion St Mary's Huskies.

Although the Bears season is over, the improvement upon their dismal 1-7 record last year to this year's 4-4 campaign was certainly a welcome change. Season highlights included a big 70-16 home win against Manitoba, a four-game winning streak, and qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

There is also plenty of optimism, considering

the Bears are a young team and will only lose two players next year—Canada West All-Star kicker Mark Wojcikowski, and defensive back Landon White—due to graduation. Under the still-fresh Jerry Friesen regime, players like Kipps and Mahoney may be less likely to slip through the fingers of the U of A football program again.



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENDOW
STYMIED RB Jarred Winkel kept to 96 yards.



'INTERNATIONAL' BEARS Jakub Larsen, Martin Molneryd, and Shane Alexander join the Bears from countries abroad. LEANNE FONG

Volleyball Bears make Main Gym return

New-look Golden Bears volleyball team has more international flavour

RYAN OHASHI
Sports Writer

After a successful preseason that saw the U of A Volleyball Bears go 9-0 against CIS opponents, coach Terry Danyluk's team managed a convincing 2-0 start to the season a weekend ago in Cowtown against the CIS fifth-ranked Calgary Dinos.

Co-captained by power Aaron Schullha and 6'9" middle Leo Carroll, there appears to be no lack of experience and depth in this lineup, despite the loss of five starters from last year's team. Schullha is returning to the Bears this year after red-shirting (practicing but not playing) for the team in his first year (1999/2000) before playing three seasons with Red Deer College in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA), winning three national titles along the way. Two of these three came

while playing alongside former Harry Ainlay High School teammates Nicolas Cundy (right side) and 2002/03 CCAA Player of the Year Brock Davidiuk (setter). "We had a player vote on co-captains and there were six or seven names mentioned," said Schullha. "It shows that a lot of guys believe we have a lot of leadership on this team."

Besides dipping into the college pool of talent, Danyluk was able to bring in three students from abroad. Dubbed the "International Bears" by the BA announcer at last month's Can-Am Challenge, this year's crop of rookies includes Swedish setter Martin Molneryd, Danish power Jakub Larsen, and 6'8" setter Shane Alexander from Brisbane, Australia. "All three of them are great people," said Danyluk. "They're coming from three different parts of the world, and we've never had a foreign player before."

Danyluk's own international experience has pitted him against many different styles of play from around the world, but has yet to coach players from outside the continent; that is until this year. "The question is always how will [the international players] adapt, and how will the differences in their style blend with what we've got going at the U of A," said Danyluk. "All three of them are exceptional young men, and they fit into the system well, and I think that the guys that were already here have adapted to those differences which makes it a lot of fun [for everyone involved]."

The first-ranked "International" Bears return to action this weekend for a home opener series against second-ranked Can West division rivals, the Trinity Western Spartans. Gametime will be 7pm on both Friday and Saturday in the Main Gym.

Tennis team welcomes German teammate

GERARD McLARNEY
Sports Writer

Fresh from Germany, up-and-coming tennis player Susi Fleischacker is making a smooth adjustment to life in Canada and proving to be a fine addition to the University of Alberta Tennis team.

"Susi has met some early success," said U of A tennis head coach Russ Sluchinski. "We'd like to recruit more players [like Susi] to have an impact on our program."

Fleischacker joined the team this past September and placed second in the women's University of Alberta Club tournament. She also placed second in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Pacific-Northwest Regional Championship held in Lewiston, Idaho. Having beaten the number-two seed in the tournament, she succumbed to the first seed, a former Malaysian national champion. "It was great to play at that level [despite the loss]," said a humbled Fleischacker.

Self-described as a "a retriever with an aggressive backhand and big first serve," Fleischacker began playing in grade two, following in the footsteps of her mother. Unlike in Germany, which has clay courts, the courts here usually sport a speedier, hard surface. Despite the shift to the faster Canadian game and English environment, she is in good spirits. "I like it here," says Fleischacker, who is currently pursuing an Arts Degree.

As for the 2003/04 season, Coach Sluchinski is full of optimism. "I



KATIE TWEEDE

GERMAN IMPORT Susi Fleischacker joins this year's Pandas tennis team.

which is comprised predominantly of US Schools this year. Along with the U of A team, the University of Calgary has competed in the NAIA in the past. While schools in Ontario have a tennis league, there is no official association for university tennis teams in Western Canada. The Bears and Pandas will host the NAIA Pacific-Northwest regionals championship in April.

The tournament will be held in the new \$6.5M Seville Sports Center, currently being built adjacent to Foote Field. The facility, named after Edmonton entrepreneur Bruce Seville, will be ready in January and according to Sluchinski, should attract more college tennis teams.

Sluchinski hopes to have both teams qualify for the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics),

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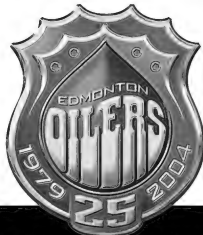
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Top eleven CFL franchise legacies



JAKE
TROUGHTON

Sports
Commentary

The best Canadian Football League team of the year will be determined on Sunday in Regina. But with Canada's rich football history, the victor in the 91st Grey Cup will make only a small ripple in the grander ocean. After well over a century of gridiron in the Canadian style, here's a look at how the various franchises throughout CFL history stack up.

11. OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

In 1925, the Riders changed their name to the Senators, and promptly won their first Grey Cup. The next year, they won it again. So they took the only logical course of action: they changed their name back to Rough Riders, and proceeded to win only two more titles in the next 33 years. A team that stupid deserved to die.

10. HAMILTON TIGERCATS

They may have the face of Tony the Tiger's ugly brother on their jerseys, but they sure aren't grreat. The redundantly monickered felines have pussyfooted their way through a long, mediocre history. These liar kings claim 15 Grey Cup titles, but in fact seven of those were won by Hamilton teams that later merged to become the Tiger-Cats, and 15 titles for four teams doesn't look quite so good.

9. BIRMINGHAM BARRACUDAS

Sure, they only existed for one year, had attendance comparable to that of a

Students' Union by-election, and were slaughtered 51-9 in their only playoff game. But "Barracudas" is a classic name, and those uniforms—like their mascot's teeth—were mighty sharp.

8. SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

Proof that a million stumble-jumpers can indeed be wrong, the mediocre Green "Machine" has sputtered its way to a pathetic two Grey Cup victories. This would merit an even lower spot, but this bunch of perennial losers can't even suck effectively.

7. OTTAWA RENEGADES

So stellar was the legacy of the Rough Riders that two seasons of playoff-free football are more than enough to vault this expansion team past their predecessors. In fact, just managing the rattle the feat of playing football in Ottawa without being laughed at bumps them up a couple spots.

6. MONTREAL ALOUETTES

The gentle Alouettes, despite clearly being descended from the Baltimore Stallions, try to associate themselves with the history of the old Alouettes, which would be more understandable if they'd had a history worth stealing. But the heyday of that team came in the 1970s when they were almost as good as the Eskimos, and by the '80s they actually managed to fold twice.

5. BC LIONS

The Lions are showy, dramatic, and sometimes vain, unjustifiably. They're the only team in recent memory to win the Grey Cup at home, and that counts for something, but otherwise they've been pathetically inept at earning home playoff games at Stuffy Marshmallow Stadium.

4. BALTIMORE CFL COLTS/FOOTBALL CLUB/STALLIONS

Demonstrating that it's not all in the name, this was by far the most successful of the CFL's American franchises. The team made it to the Grey Cup in every year of their existence, winning it in half those seasons. Those are pretty good percentages.

3. TORONTO ARGONAUTS

This vaunted franchise actually pre-dates professional football by several decades. The venerable Argonauts have won more Grey Cups than any other team; even more impressive, they are the only team in any major professional sports league to take their name from Greek mythology.

1A. CALGARY STAMPEDEERS

Stomping over the competition, Calgary hosted a playoff game every year from 1989-2001, winning three championships in that stretch. Despite recent gallops near the glue factory, there are clearly many trips to the winners' circle ahead for the team that has produced such fine thoroughbred studs as Doug Flutie, Jeff Garcia, and that dirty traitor Dave Dickenson.

1. EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Taking their colours from our fine university's a successful strategy. Only the Argos have won more Grey Cups than the Eks, and they've had a lot more chances. The Green and Gold won five straight from 1978-82, and have made the playoffs in 32 consecutive years. They have the dumbest coach, the nicest stadium, and their jerseys are a much nicer shade of green than the Roughriders'. The Eskimos are clearly the CFL's all-time dominant force.

Bed-ban a shaky Grey Cup approach



JOEL
CHURY

Sports
Editor

Eskimos snuck away with a Grey Cup berth, narrowly avoiding a late-game Rider miracle. So whatever it was that the Eskimos were doing that week, why change?

As Kevin Costner's "Crash" Davis character in the movie *Bull Durham* said, "Never fuck with a winning streak," referring to a streak that was believed to have resulted from pitcher Eloy Calvo "Nuke" Laloz's abstaining sex with his girlfriend, Annie. But the Eskimos most likely weren't abstaining last week. They just won a game at home, so whatever their home-game ritual is, it worked. Luck was on their side, and the team's playoff drive is still alive. Let's also point out that of the Eks' five losses all season, only one came at home, and that one was the first of the season. Commonwealth Stadium has been good to the team, and the wives have been good for player morale.

Vince McMahon's NFL pigskinners used a black and red football. The WHA used packs of blue. This weekend, the Edmonton Eskimos are going to be using a combination of both approaches by playing with a bunch of blue balls of their own. You see, head coach Tom Higgins has put the kibosh on the players' wives staying in the same hotel during the week leading up to the big dance.

After hosting last year's Grey Cup weekend, the Eks seem to have learned that they need to keep focused on the task at hand, and not be too concerned with off-the-field distractions. Last year, the team had to deal with out-of-town family members and friends. This year's idea holds merit; out of sight, out of mind. Whether this proves effective will be seen on Sunday, but the tampering of the players' marital support networks could prove disastrous.

Let's not forget that the team won their game at home last weekend, before any sort of bed-ban was in effect. Whatever the players and their wives did leading up to the Western Final, it worked. Playing the superstitious devil's advocate, let's point out that the Eks were indeed very lucky last Sunday. Getting generous calls from the officials—most notably the phantom goal-line crossing touchdown by running back Mike Truglieri and the last desperation on-side kick attempt that appeared to be recovered by the Roughriders—the

Some cynics may say that the worry over player sexual activity would be better monitored if the wives were staying in the same room as the players. But painting all professional athletes as adulterers isn't necessary. Besides, routine bedroom checks will also accompany the team's imposed curfew. This sort of enforcement would've helped former Atlanta Falcons safety Eugene Robinson who was caught soliciting an undercover cop less than 24 hours before the Superbowl in 1999. This never would've happened had his wife been waiting in the hotel room while he went to fill the ice bucket.

The players' concentration could benefit from this forced abstinence, but then again it could backfire. Whether or not that kind of energy channeling only works for fictional characters like "Nuke" will be answered after this weekend's big game.

New AP!RG Board Members Wanted

APIRG is looking to elect 3 new Board Members for the Winter term at the next Annual General Meeting on November 20th.

If you are interested in helping to direct APIRG's activities and budget, nomination packages are available at the APIRG office.

Vote Nov 20th
5pm SUB Alumni Room

More info available at:
www.ualberta.ca/~apirg
the APIRG office - 9111 HUB Mall
call 492-0614 or email: apirg@ualberta.ca

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Pandas Hockey
Clare Drake Arena

Friday, Nov. 14
vs. Lethbridge 7 pm
Saturday, Nov. 15
vs. Lethbridge 7 pm

Golden Bears
Volleyball
Main Gym

Friday, Nov. 14
vs. TWU Spartans 7 pm
Saturday, Nov. 15
vs. TWU Spartans 7 pm



CRAFTING REVOLUTION

domestic arts and the new DIY generation

WORDS: LEAH COLLINS

PHOTOS: COSANNA PRESTON, LEAH COLLINS

ALL THAT TIME YOU SPENT REHEARSING STARSHIP COVERS WITH YOUR GARAGE BAND, PERFECTING YOUR SNEER IN THE BATHROOM MIRROR, AND EATING YOUR FROOT LOOPS WITH JACK DANIELS WAS SPENT IN VAIN. THESE DAYS, PUNK ROCK IS ALL ABOUT GLUE GUNS AND GLITTER PAINT—SO SAYS WEB MAGAZINE *GET CRAFTY*'S FOUNDER AND CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, JEAN RAILLA. THOUGH ARTS AND CRAFTS HAVE LONG BEEN RELEGATED TO MACARONI-NECKLACE-WEARING KINDERGARTNERS AND MIDDLE-AGED ENSIGNS OF THE MARTHA STEWART ARMY, FOR RAILLA, AS SHE HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING, CRAFTING "IS ABOUT PUNK IDENTITY."

Though hand-knitting a guitar strap or decoupage a drum kit may seem about as hardcore as your Nana's favorite Wayne Newton album, Raila's statement about arts and crafts and her publication are representative of a steadily growing subculture, the "new crafters."

A "new crafter" is the guy you might see knitting a scarf on the bus, or the girl who hand-painted racing stripes on her ten-speed. They're even Hollywood glamour-pusses (*InStyle* magazine boasts Julia Roberts and Hilary Swank both dig knitting). Whether they're making shrinky-dink magnets for Christmas presents or crocheting cell phone cozies, "new crafters" simply share a love of making unique objects. And, according to the assortment of publications catering to the new crafter lifestyle, everything from glossy mag *Ready Made* (a *Martha Stewart Living*-esque guide for the crafty hipster that offers how-tos for projects such as how to make a coffee table out of old *Lite Bites*) to web 'zines like *Not Martha* (offers a multitude of links to other crafting sites and projects to try), crafters are also inherently political superstars, daring to stick it to the Walmart man.

Albeit, there's nothing new about this bunch of crafty whippersnappers or what they do. Their techniques are traditional: anything from knitting to cross-stitch to bookbinding to beading. But, some argue, the new crafters stand out because they have the bollocks to stand up to the mainstream by not only refusing to buy the same old product from the local X-mart as everyone else, but also because they get their kicks doing things that haven't been common since grandma wore hot pants.

SOMEHOW, KNITTING-NEEDLES ARE NOT AN AGE-APPROPRIATE ACCESSORY FOR A TWENTY-

YEAR-OLD. As a result, hobbies like knitting make young people like Eleanor Colver, a 27-year-old community development worker, stand out. "I knit on the bus a lot," admits Colver, working on a scarf as we speak, "and people are always kind of looking at me, and smiling at me." To her surprise, knitting gets her plenty of attention, at least two or three comments a day, she says, but everything is positive. "People are really interested by it, which I think is kind of fascinating. I think it's that if you see a grandmother knitting, I don't know that you have the same reaction as if you see somebody my age doing it. It's sort of different."

For Lise Wilson, nothing comes more naturally than creating. A workshop instructor at the City Arts Centre (Wilson teaches sessions on how to make herbal salves, lip balms, creams, and first aid kits) and part-time administrator for APiRG, crafting and creative activities in general have long been part of her life. Both her grandmother and mother were artists, and as she explains, "it was always natural for me to be doing something crafty." Nowadays, along with pursuits such as beading, dancing, and pottery, Wilson finds herself doing traditionally domestic crafts like knitting, weaving, and sewing—crafts her mother never did.

"My mom can't sew to save her life, so I certainly didn't get inspired to do anything like that from her. She has no creative ideas as far as anything like that goes, so I didn't grow up with it. In fact, my mom was of the feminist genre where you shun that stuff. She was proud that she couldn't

iron. So, [my knitting, etc] was interesting for her."

Although "domestic" crafts never really disappeared, they certainly faded from view in the past thirty-odd years. Some say this was because of the oppressive symbolic value that classic homemaking activities like sewing, knitting, and cooking had to the feminists of thirty years ago; nowadays, the resurgence in popularity of such homey crafts is often interpreted as a reclamation of lost female arts (*Bust* magazine memorably ran an issue in 2001 dedicated to this topic). Whether or not this idea draws people into crafting, Wilson mentions that current crafting is noticeably set apart from crafting in the past, as the activities themselves no longer necessarily bear the weight of gender stereotypes. "Women and men are coming together to do these things that were either usually women's 'customs' or women's 'crafts,' at least in our culture. I think it's almost starting to become cool for men to be taking part in things like crocheting."

✂

"I think it's that if you see a grandmother knitting, I don't know that you have the same reaction as if you see somebody my age [27] doing it. It's sort of different."

✂

**ELEANOR COLVER,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER,
CRAFTER**

Colver, like Wilson, had a mom who skirted the troubles of knitting and stitching. "When I think of my mom's

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generation," she says, "I grew up in a household where my mom would take things to the tailor. She wouldn't be knitting, she wouldn't be sewing, she would be paying the tailor five bucks to sew my brother's name badges on his hockey shirts because it was such a hassle to do."

THE SIMPLE FACT OF ANY CRAFT IS IT'S

PAINFULLY TIME CONSUMING. When faced with a busy schedule, it's much more appealing to quickly buy something than slave for hours producing it yourself. Yet the hectic nature of our daily schedules is one of the main factors that draws both Colver and Wilson to crafts: making things is therapeutic.

Says Colver, the pace of our lives is "something that's just messed about our society, that we don't have enough time. Everybody's rushing around, trying to get things done and we don't have time to sit down and enjoy our Sunday afternoon with our friends, or whatever we want to do." That problem is part of why she crafts: "the idea of sharing that sense of community, and sharing that time, slowing down and realizing that it does take a long time to make something."

BOTH WOMEN ARE OCCASIONAL FACILITATORS OF A CRAFTING CIRCLE, OR AS THEY CALL IT, A "STITCH N' BITCH."

The idea behind the crafting circle is simple. Friends gather, bring craft projects, share a pot-luck supper, and talk.

For Wilson, community and crafting were a natural fit: "It's just part of who we are as human beings. We all have skills and we end up sharing them with each other as a means of getting into each other's brains and lives." Though she had always enjoyed creative group projects, from weaving to creating music, the idea for a stitch n' bitch came out of something much more practical: the need to do some basic mending and catch up with friends while balancing a busy schedule. It can also serve as a collective, mentions Wilson, allowing a group to save money by pooling resources to make what they need.

For Colver, the idea to start a crafting circle came out of a need for a sense of community in a city where everyone is so busy with work, school, family, etc., that there isn't even time to get to know the neighbours. Last winter, Colver helped form a small community of knitters while working with Canada World Youth in Ukraine. A group of her colleagues and the youth they worked with would gather, teach one another how to knit and

share news items they found on the Internet (news of the world was hard to come by in any other way). Interested in creating a similar sense of community on her return to Edmonton, and wanting to set time aside to knit Christmas presents for friends and family, Colver decided to start a craft circle. And her invitations to friends were answered with surprising enthusiasm. "I was amazed that all these people who were quite good friends, didn't even know how into this craft stuff they all were. It was kind of neat, because there was almost a subculture where you didn't really talk about it, but everybody's working on stuff."

WILSON SUGGESTS THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE ABOUT

CRAFTING. It invites anyone to take a chance at being creative, to feel self-confident about accomplishing something that's both practical and fun. Says Wilson, "you don't have to be super arty to do this stuff"



"I was amazed that all these people who were quite good friends, didn't even know how into this craft stuff they all were. It was kind of neat, because there was almost a subculture where you didn't really talk about it but everybody's working on stuff."



ELEANOR COLVER,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
WORKER, CRAFTER

And it's something that everyone can enjoy. Even though members of the circle might be engrossed in their knitting, or beading, etc, stitch n' bitches are ultimately very social. "It's interesting," says Wilson, "because you can weave, or knit, or do something like that and talk at the same time. It's not impossible. Sometimes you get going on something and you can't focus on someone talking to you, so then that in

CRAFT ONE: *The Record Bowl*

MATERIALS:

- **VINYL RECORD** (THE NEWER THE BETTER. OLDER RECORDS MADE OF THICKER "UNBREAKABLE VINYLITE" WILL NOT WORK AS WELL, AND RUN THE RISK OF WRINKLING, OR MELTING IN GENERALLY UNPLEASANT WAYS)
- **OVEN SAFE BOWLS**
- **COOKIE SHEET**

- 1** Preheat oven to 200 degrees (if your record's kind of bemirched with thrift store filth, give it a scrub before sending it to its melty doom)
- 2** Place record on top of an upside down oven-safe bowl. You may wish to put the bowl on a cookie sheet for easy movement in and out of the oven.
- 3** Put into the oven (on the bottom shelf) and bake for five minutes. You should notice the record becoming sad and droopy as it melts under the oven's oppressive glow.
- 4** Remove from oven and quickly place the record in the bowl, careful not to burn yourself on the cookie sheet or bowl. The record should be cool enough to touch, but use caution. Be snappy about it. The record will cool very quickly.
- 5** Once in the bowl, play with the record to shape it how you want. It should be pliable enough to be shaped into a quaintly hideous rippled lace effect. If the vinyl hardens, just repeat steps one through four until satisfied. In our test run of the craft, we needed to reheat the record on three occasions. Let the record remain in the oven as you see necessary, always keeping a watchful eye on its uglifying process. Gogo dancing, and nicely asking "please," we found, had no effect on the success of the formation of a nifty bowl.
- 6** Let cool. Stop gogo dancing.
- 7** Use as fruit bowl, flower pot, or dispose.



IT'S TIME FOR A GATEWAY Craftercise

WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A CHEAP VINYL RECORD AND A POCKET FULL OF INGENUITY YOU CAN BE ARTS AND CRAFTS ROCK N' ROLLING LIKE MARTHA STEWART AT A STEVIE NICKS CONCERT.

FINDING MYSELF WITH A COUPLE OF SCRATCHED-TO-DARNABLE-HECK RECORDS, AND UNWILLING TO JUST PASS THEM ON TO THE HOBOS WHO COMB THROUGH MY TRASH, I THREW A MINI-CRAFTING PARTY. THE RESULTS: MORE GOGO DANCING THAN YOU CAN SHAKE YOUR BOTTOM AT, SOME MINOR HOT GLUE BURNS AND TWO USES FOR MY OLD COPY OF *THE BEST OF BLONDIE* THAT GUARANTEE MORE WICKED FOR YOUR AWESOME.

itself, the communal experience with silence is also very bonding."

And it's the social nature of crafting that she attributes to the stitch n' bitch's success, explaining no one likes doing practical and often mundane tasks like sewing unless there's an incentive of fun, spending time with friends, and meeting new people. "That tends to be the way a lot of people in our generation approach things. You want to benefit from it in some way besides just having something done at the end of the day."



"I feel better, I feel more creative, I feel life. I'm nurturing that creative side of myself if I have something on the go."



LISE WILSON,
PART-TIME APIRO
ADMINISTRATOR, CRAFTER

The sense of fun is very present in the process of making crafts and also in the new crafter aesthetic. The emphasis isn't on perfection, on toiling over an impeccable tea cozy to shame Martha S; it's on having fun just making something, anything, and embracing the irony of acting domestic in a culture where it's so much easier to just buy. Says Wilson of the 'new crafter' look, "there's this delight in making things that are a bit quirky, like big stitches and patches and things that don't quite match up. There's less of this desire for perfection. And that may be the difference between crafting circles and stitch n' bitches that happen now as opposed to the '50s."

BUT THERE'S ALSO THE DIFFERENCE FROM DAYS OF CRAFTING YORE OF CRAFTING BEING MORE THAN JUST A PRACTICAL NECESSITY. Both Colver and Wilson agree that their enjoyment of crafting comes out of it's practical use, and Wilson does mention the economic benefits of being able to make what one needs, citing the renewed popularity in crafting may come out of the perceived trend of younger

people having less money to support themselves post-university than their parents' generation. But unless you're making things out of found objects and other recycled materials, chances are the cost of handcrafting something will be much more, in time and dollars, than just picking it up at Zellers.

MORE PEOPLE ARE DECIDING TO CRAFT BECAUSE OF GREATER CONSUMER

AWARENESS. Says Wilson, "people are aware of sweatshops, they're aware of fair trade, they're aware of the origin of their products, and they're wanting to create things partly in response to their awareness of that."

"I have a kid. I don't want to put something on her butt that came from something that was sprayed with chemicals. Forget it. What's the point? And also knowing I've created something on my own time with my own hands I know I haven't facilitated the abuse of an individual in an unfair environment by purchasing something."

The perspective of consumer-awareness is one Wilson has noticed among her students in her how-to workshops. "Part of the reason they come," she says, "is that they want to know that they're making it themselves, and that I support local businesses when I provide my products to them."

Though it's occasionally hard to avoid the politics behind some of the new crafters, whether in the tones of feminism, anti-consumerism, or just the anti-mainstream punk rock attitude Railla associates with crafty creating, ultimately crafting is just about personal expression. And sometimes a tea cozy is just a tea cozy.

"I do it because it's satisfying for me," says Colver, matter-of-factly. I really think of the political as being personal. I don't think you can really say that they're separate. A lot of the things I've been doing in my life lately have been about trying to live in a more sane and sustainable way in this crazy world we have going on. In that sense, I guess you could call my knitting political, but it's not taking a stand, or making a statement."

If anything, it's a very strong personal statement; a dynamic and community-oriented way to express one's individuality. Being creative, making crafts, is just part of being alive. For Wilson, when she crafts she says, "I feel better, I feel more creative. I feel life. I'm nurturing that creative side of myself if I have something on the go. Even if it's not happening that single day, if I know it's waiting for me—like the scarf I've been making for my friend for two years—it's still hanging, and waiting for me to finish it. It's an ongoing project and I almost don't want to end it."



CRAFT TWO: *Totally dreamy journal*

MATERIALS:

- RECORD COVER (LEFT OVER FROM BOWL CRAFT)
- BLANK BOOK (\$2, DOLLAR STORE)
- ELASTIC HEAD BANDS (\$1 FOR 3, DOLLAR STORE)
- GLUE GUN
- RULER
- PAPER
- SCISSORS

1 Measure the dimensions of the cover of your blank book and make a stencil of the cover just slightly smaller than the size of the cover.

2 Using the stencil, select portions of your record sleeve to use for the cover of the book and cut out.

3 Glue the selected pieces of the record cover to the front and back of the book.

4 For added sass, use any other artwork from the record cover as motifs on the inside of the book. Examples could be selections of lyrics, song titles, small and eye-catching graphics.

5 Take one of the elastic hair bands, measure it to the width of the book cover, and affix, using the glue gun, to the inner cover for use as a clip for extra storage of loose papers, etc.

6 Just to make things look pretty and give you another excuse to use the glue gun, take another elastic hair band and encircle the book so that the band appears vertically. Keep it close to the right hand side of the book. On the back cover of the book, glue the band down at its top and bottom points.

7 Your journal should be looking absolutely dreamy. For added flourish, consider decorating the outer band with motifs left over from the record cover, or paint.

8 Begin drafting nasty letters to the editor in your spiffy new book.



Stinkmitt want you to smell the trash, admire their camel toes

Stinkmitt

with Nashville Pussy
Sunday, 15 November
New City Likwid Lounge

DAVE BERRY

Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you still think Christina is the cutting edge of empowered female sexuality, just wait until the self-described cougars in Stinkmitt grab you by the throat, have their way with you and then leave you tossed aside in the gutter like a used condom. The Vancouver-area rappers, who recently released their first full-length album *Scratch n' Sniff*, are "dirty" like you've never seen before: from their trashy hair right down to their camel toes, the ladies in this band put trailer-park dwellers to shame.

Speaking of everybody's favorite euphemism for female genitalia, MC Jenni Craige's camel graces the band's album cover, and she's more than a little too eerily proud of her crotch's photogenic value. "I tried to enter it into a cameltoe.com rating website, but they wouldn't even submit it because it was too inhuman," brags Craige. "So that should show that my camel is too camel for camel."

Still, there is a lot more to this group than meets the eye, or the spandex pants for that matter. Though they've been called everything from electro-clash to a novelty act, their unique sound defies typical genre labels, but Craige says she doesn't worry about what anyone thinks she is. "They just say that shit because they don't have a fucking genre to put us in," Craige asserts with that tone of disdain in her voice. "Until there is a whole subculture and some sort of recognized genre for what the fuck we're doing, it's just going to pin-hole into ridiculous things like that."

It's the band's uncategorizable or, as one critic described it, "genre-fuck," that has led many people to compare the foul-mouthed rappers to people like Princes Superstar, simply because of superficial similarities. "I think they make references [to other artists] because we're white and we're exploiting controversial issues and sexuality; that's the only way that I see us

being related," Craige remarks. She says the only artist she would even consider likening her group of low-brow tarts to is the notoriously quirky musician, Prince. "We're the same as Prince; he really uses the same tongue-in-cheek style as us." Well, not exactly the same. Stinkmitt sounds more like what would have happened if Prince had changed his name to Fazy-E instead of an unpronounceable symbol. "We're a little more over the top," adds Craige in what is one of the bigger understatement of the year. "But it's not '78 anymore; there's not so much love and cocaine going around, you know?"

Comparisons aside, one thing that definitely sticks out about the group is their live show. Past performances have featured a trailer full of raunchy goodness. As Craige recalls, "I've been kicked in the head twice by Bett (Bowie, the other half of Stinkmitt), which was pretty exciting. I've puked on stage, I've literally peed myself on stage and I've been naked." But, Craige warns, none of those tidbits can prepare you for what is to come if you're daring enough to check out their upcoming gigs. "It depends on the crowd, the day we had and the amount of clothing we have to wear," says Craige frankly. "But really, people can expect a fuckin' all out fantastic show of sporadic orifice-filling and beats."

There is also a rumour that they feature male jiggy dancers, and Craige confirms that there is a definite possibility she will be hauling some lucky boys out on stage when they hit town.

"If we can find a local boy who wants to get up and show his shit, [then] we would love to do that. It's our gift to Edmonton," she quips.

If nothing else, you can still expect some unabashed, tongue-in-cheek rap at their show, which is more fun than being taken advantage of by two cougars on blow.



SCRATCH 'N' SNIFF WITH MC JENNI CRAIGE

Tourmates Nashville Pussy

"I think they're on a similar vibe, so it's time for them to pay. I'm very excited about Nashville Pussy."

Celebrity Endorsements

"Tom [Cochrane] is a big fan, so is Michael Stipe of REM, and Ashley MacIsaac." And, of course, much Music TV George Strombolopolous, who called them "the greatest band ever!"

What her children think

"They love it; we're sponsored by Baby Duff now, so they love the free booze and all the teenage boys my daughter gets to fuck."

Top 3 Boy Toys

"Oh my god... Justin Timberlake, D'Angelo, and probably Moka Only." [When informed that Moka doesn't count because she actually knows him, she adds] "OK, maybe I'll go for something else. Here, how about R Kelly?"

Who they'd like to collaborate with

"Big Daddy Kane, Roxanne Roxanne, Salt 'n' Pepa. I don't know if they're still around, we want to bring them back for a reunion show to have Lilith Un-Fair."

Future Projects

"It's going to be Stinkmitt presents... The Poon Tang Clan. It's going to be a bunch of serious, hot, kick-ass, polluted-mouth bitches ready to set it off."



Calgary filmmaker has designs on fear, Febreze

A Problem with Fear

Starring Paulo Costanzo and Emily Hampshire
Directed by Gary Burns
www.problemwithfearthemovie.com
Now Playing

RICK HUNTER

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Contrary to popular belief, Canadian films can be good, even if they're made in Calgary; of this, writer/director Gary Burns is living proof. His first two films, *The Suburbanans* and *Kitchen Party*, achieved critical success and his third feature film, *waydownhome*, which was shot entirely inside offices and malls in downtown Calgary, won the prestigious Toronto City Award for best Canadian Feature Film.

His fourth work, *A Problem with Fear*, recently opened up across Canada. Originally, explains Burns, he wanted to make a horror

movie based on society's more banal fears, but the more he delved into the concept, the more it began to shape itself as a dark comedy. "Fear is the subject matter," he states. "It's more about everyday fears... I wanted to make a movie really about the idea of being afraid of using a washroom in a restaurant where you're not a paying customer."

"But once I started looking at the topic of fear, it just opens up all things," Burns remarks. "I think our lives were designed by fear and that's what gets you out of bed in the morning—because you're scared you'll lose your job. It makes you not late for dinner because you're scared you'll piss off the person who made it for you. Even advertisers use fear to sell product, like, 'you've got to have Febreze and if you don't have Febreze, man, you're in trouble.'"

While his films have earned him attention from across the country, Burns isn't exactly a young hipster creative celluloid maverick. After

working numerous other jobs for over a decade, Burns decided to try out filmmaking as a career path and enrolled in film school at the age of thirty. Fortunately for Burns, his ideas were appreciated and he started receiving grant money to produce his films.

According to Burns, what made him successful and one of the key concepts to effective filmmaking is practice.

"People forgot that Alfred Hitchcock made something like 35 films before you even heard of him. That man got to practice a lot before he became the man that everyone knows, [but] it's not like that anymore... people don't make 35 films in their career. Look at a guy like Tarantino—he's the guy—and he's only made, like four films in his career. The thing with filmmaking is that it's hard; you don't get to practice that much."

While Burns may only have a handful of cinematic pieces under his belt, he looks poised



TERROR Gary Burns releases his fourth film.

to defend a name for himself of one of the few noteworthy Canadian film creators. His new film features Paulo Costanzo (you might remember him as the pensive pot-smoker in *Road Trip*) as Laurie Harding, who is afraid of everything: elevators, escalators, crossing the street, intimacy. If this film lives up to the expectations his previous creations yielded, then moviegoers would be well advised to give it 90 minutes of their time.

Skirts on Fire blazes with screwball comedy and sizzling 1950s swing

Skirts on Fire

Starring Leona Brausen, Julien Arnold, Cathy Derkach, Jeff Haslam, Sheri Somerville and Davina Stewart
Directed by Stewart Lemoine
Now showing
Varscona Theatre

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Normally, the answer to the question, "What kind of place is filled with hot jazz music and rowdy yahoos at one in the morning?" is "The best damn pet shop in town!" However, in the case of *Tiempo La Quinciesma's* production of *Skirts on Fire*, you'd have to consider throwing in the Varscona theatre as a possible answer as well. This revival of the Fringe hit from 2000, featuring the original cast, is so electrically fun and blazing with energy that it will make you wonder why they bother to light the stage at all.

It all starts the instant you find your seat. While sizzling swing music surrounds you, musician Marisa Kochanski's vibrant set perfectly sets the mood for the overall performance and pulls you in to the 1950s New York setting.

A pure comedy reminiscent of the screwball era, *Skirts on Fire* takes the best aspects of the genre and pushes them all to the limit. The plot centres on two old friends, a bookish English teacher named Porter (played with amusing nervous energy by Julien Arnold) and a smooth-talking ne'er-do-well (worked to slick perfection by Jeff Haslam). Haslam's character, in an effort to win brownie points, wants to publish a new story by Hartwood Keane, a reclusive, JD Salinger-type author who wrote "the most anthologized short story of the middle third of the twentieth century," in his new girlfriend's magazine. The only problem is that Keane doesn't actually exist; he was fabri-



ZANY Madcap performances ensures *Skirts on Fire* strikes comedy gold.

cated by Haslam as a convenient way to avoid attention.

As convoluted as all of this seems, it flows seamlessly, thanks to director Lemoine's rapid pacing and Teatro's terrifically talented ensemble. The aforementioned Arnold's transition into Keane, the eccentric author, is a constant source of comic energy and evokes memories of Christopher Lloyd's Dr. Brown (Back to the Future), but he is only one of many delightfully madcap performances.

Leona Brausen, who plays Haslam's girlfriend Evangeline Gold, embodies the character by having her talk and act as if transported from the pages of a 1950s modern woman's magazine, overdrawn descriptions and all. And Sheri Somerville's turn as Gold's uptight secretary Thetis Kip is downright hilarious, from her rigid posture to her perfectly-suited delivery, which makes every word sound like it was

delivered by a Speak and Spell.

The performances all come to a well-timed head in the final scene, which is set in a cramped apartment for professional women. The actors do such a fantastic job of maintaining the claustrophobic, cramped space while still filling it with so much energy that any second you expect them to explode off of the stage.

Praise aside, if you are looking for biting social commentary or deeper meaning, you should be in another theatre. As you would expect from a screwball comedy, there really is no element of significant subtext and the story is resolved in a fairly equitable and predictable way.

However, you will be having so much fun watching the characters trying to get out of the conundrums they created that you won't care about anything other than how much you are being entertained.

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A Japanese tale of finding life in death

Ikiru

Starring Takashi Shimura
Directed by Akira Kurosawa
Cowboy Pictures
www.ikurifilm.com
Metro Cinema
Playing 14-17 November

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After nearly 30 years without a single absence from his mind-numbing civil service job, which has left him perennially hunched over and barely able to move his lips when he speaks, Mr Watanabe is a broken man. As *Ikiru* opens, we learn that Watanabe is dying of stomach cancer, but it soon becomes clear that, as the narrator says, he's been dead for a long time.

In a waiting room, Watanabe (Takashi Shimura) listens to a fellow patient's chilling warning that the doctors will attribute the symptoms of stomach cancer to a "mild ulcer." When the doctor tells Watanabe exactly that, he looks forlorn and desperate; but in truth, it's not so different from the way he looked earlier while at work.

The word "ikiru" means "to live,"

and indeed director Akira Kurosawa's 1952 masterpiece is not about a man dying, but a dead man coming to life. Watanabe is so devoid of life that even when he realizes his shortcomings, he feels powerless to do anything about it. Though he'd never drank before and knows it will only make the cancer worse, Watanabe tries to drown his sorrows in sake. He withdraws a large sum of money to spend on a good time, but confides to a stranger in the bar that he doesn't know how to spend it. The ensuing night of gambling, dancing and close encounters with ladies of the evening entertains the stranger, but leaves Watanabe cold. He ends up in a bar in tears, giving a haunting rendition of an old song called "Life is Brief," with his lips, as always, barely moving.

Watanabe's epiphany comes while talking to a former coworker he has befriended, but he eventually realizes he won't find solace in her company; he still isn't doing anything. Still, her new job at a toy factory, which she enjoys because it feels like she is "playing with every child in Japan," inspires him. He gets an idea, and returns to work with a purpose.

At this moment of rebirth, the film

suddenly jumps ahead five months to Watanabe's wake. In the interim he has pushed city hall to build a much-desired park in his city, but the audience doesn't get to see this except in brief flashbacks. Instead we see the reactions of those around him and experiencing Watanabe's life through their eyes rather than his, which makes his rebirth all the more heroic. Watching a roomful of increasingly drunken Japanese bureaucrats marvel at his willingness to challenge various section chiefs accents his uniqueness and while building a park seems relatively simple, Watanabe is the only person willing to do it.

In fact, he is the only person willing to do anything at all; after taking some time off when he discovers his cancer, he returns to a tall stack of paperwork that was simply not dealt with in his absence.

This film is based on a half-century old Japanese story and certain aspects will seem strange to western audiences, such as the actors' excited vocal tones and dialogue, which includes many unfinished sentences. But great storytelling transcends borders, and Kurosawa—whose films have inspired classic American remakes like *A Fistful*



of Dollars and The Magnificent Seven—tells a story that can touch all audiences. *Ikiru*'s setting is Watanabe's death, first figuratively then literally, but it is unmistakably the tale of his life. He does not treat the discovery of his cancer as a death sentence,

but almost as a pardon. It's the call that alerts him to the fact that he hasn't been living and that he needs to actually do something instead of just stamping forms for 30 years. And it is that simple decision to act that makes the film so inspiring.



Zane
The Big Zane Theory
Capitol
www.willlancem.com

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There are two major problems with Zane's new release, *The Big Zane Theory*. Surprisingly enough, neither of them has very much to do with the artist himself.

Zane is an adequate MC who is not good enough to get you to listen


to him if you're not a rap fan, but he's nowhere near as bad as some of the purveyors of crap that regularly assault your eardrums in the rap genre. As a nice change of pace, he varies his topics away from just booze, bitches and bling and occasionally manages to actually say something meaningful. He's also a half-decent storyteller, which is something that was a staple of earlier rap, but has unfortunately fallen by the wayside in recent times.

The problems with Zane lie within the people who sing his hooks, which are some of the worst in recent memory, and his unfortunate tendency to sound like a bizarre mixture of someone like Jay-Z and a member of Wu-Tang, but without the presence or edge of either.

If Zane can manage to get some better hooks and find his own style, we might have a decent rapper on our hands, but until then Zane is basically a mediocre version of some of the better rappers from New York.

FREE STUFF

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Gothika tells the story of Dr Miranda Grey (Halle Berry), a dedicated and successful **criminal psychologist** who awakens to find herself a patient in her own mental institution with no memory of the **murder** she's apparently committed. The movie **opens** in theatres on Friday, 21 November but we want you to see it **early**:

You and a guest are invited to a promotional screening on **Wednesday, 19 November 7pm** in Silver City at West Edmonton Mall, just drop by the Gateway office on 3-04 SUB after 12pm on Monday and tell the entertainment editor the craziest thing you've ever done.

THE GATEWAY

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Edmonton corrupts The Uncas

The Uncas Old Boys

with guests
Thursday, 13 November
Powerplant

MIKE FOWLIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"The city corrupted us and our music in a good way. When we came, we were a straight rootsy country band, looking at playing weddings. Other bands really opened our eyes. It encouraged us to incorporate more punk and rock elements, especially live," reflects singer Futch Uncas. Originally hailing from farming communities in northern Alberta, Uncas and his four rural cohorts paved the old gravel-road mentality of the Uncas Old Boys over with a flashy new alt-country sound after moving to the bright lights of Edmonton.

"Coming to the city for the first time is a big theme of our demos," Uncas remarks. "Coming of age is exciting and we got ourselves in a lot of trouble drinking, gambling and [participating in] lewd behaviours. A lot of the songs off the first demo are about that; it's a look from the outside coming in." However, the country-centric demo, recorded quickly to rope in gigs, is only a passing reflection of the current incarnation of the Uncas Old Boys, who are eager to finish their more representative upcoming album.

For now, the band is crafting their sound on the road. Upcoming shows include a trip to Vancouver to play the Festival of Guns, touted as an outlaw experience in rock 'n' roll. Uncas thinks that it's the perfect setting for the band's new sound.

"We've gotten tighter, but it is unusual in alt-country to see these guys going crazy, and that's how we fit into the outlaw label. We're outlaws because people have a tough time fitting us into a niche: we're too punk for country, so we can't go play with traditional country shows, but we're too country for regular punk audiences." Uncas admits it's at times hard to convince youth-orientated venues that the



REBIRTH A wedding band is reborn as rockers.

country image isn't everything. Underneath their exterior of muttonchops and cowboy hats, the band truly sees it's connection to country as deeper than just aesthetics.

"We're trying to bring back real roots of country; the opposite of pop country like Shania Twain. Country as a label has become dangerous, especially in small towns, and it's become attached to mainstream pop-country. To us, country is Hank Williams, Woody Guthrie and Johnny Cash. Back then, country had a lot of innovative sounds and themes," Uncas recalls. It's this blueprint of versatility that drives all five members to sing lead and rotate instruments regularly.

Uncas assures the live shows are equally flexible. "Alt-country tends to be shoe-gazing, but we're not about that at all, because we think the punk antics are fun to watch and get into. Our guitarist Merle Carpenter, a carpenter by trade, uses a drill on his guitar pickups to make these crazy noises," Uncas explains.

The Uncas Old Boys are still in transition, adjusting to the fast lane of city life. While still rooted in country ethics, they hope to continue opening the range of music they play, inspired by the city that corrupted them.



Love nauseating, but worthwhile

Love Actually

Starring Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Bill Nighy, Alan Rickman, Laura Linney, Liam Neeson and Rowan Atkinson
Directed by Richard Curtis
Universal Pictures
www.loveactually.com
Now Showing

BEN JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Some films use subtitles as a clever way to develop characters, some use them for comedic relief, and still others employ a subset of the central story as an excuse to indulge in ridiculous effects in an abysmal attempt at being cutting edge. But in the case of many romantic comedies, you could accurately just describe the subtitles as "fluff."

Love Actually, the new Christmas romantic comedy that's inexplicably hitting theatres a month before Christmas, is comprised entirely of subtitles: there are larger subtitles, smaller subtitles and kiddie-sized subtitles, but there is no main plot whatsoever. The entire film simply weaves in and out of a series of largely unrelated stories, all of which focus on love in England.

These stories include the unrequited love of a newly-wed's best friend, a writer falling in love with his foreign housekeeper, an office worker who adores her handsome coworker, et cetera, et cetera. If you think that you've detected a pattern for possible nausea, you're probably right.

Ultimately, the success of the film rides on the quality of the individual stories, and they're generally decent. Playing an aged rock-and-roll superstar seeking a comeback, Bill

Nighy is by far the movie's best actor and accounts for the most enjoyable of the tales. His scenes are the funniest and most engaging of the entire film. As well, the always-reliable Hugh Grant is quite entertaining as the new Prime Minister who falls for a member of his staff, and Thomas Sangster, as a schoolboy with a crush on the prettiest girl in school, is just so darned earnest that you can't help but like him, despite the triteness of the material.

There is next to nothing in the movie that hasn't been done many times before in this genre, but it's all done with such style that it really doesn't matter. The characters have acerbic wits and there are some great laugh-out-loud moments, many of which you may have seen in the trailers. The few ideas that are original, such as the pair of sex doubles who fall in love while chatting on sex, are also so quirky and hilarious that they make up for the sparseness of creativity.

Unfortunately, the producers apparently felt that the movie should end on a high note and this is a major problem. The last third of this film is almost completely devoted to happy endings, and it gets old faster than a jar of mayonnaise left out in the Arizona sun as the sappiness quotient of the endings starts high and goes up from there. The sheer level of joy is almost nauseating—not because it's unpleasant, but because there's so much of it. A few of the endings are fun, but the rest are completely over the top, such as when half of the cast coincidentally attends an elementary school play that climaxes in a huge musical number.

Love Actually is certainly worth seeing, but if the final third had focused more on making the audience laugh then on providing happy endings, then this reasonably good movie might have been a truly excellent one.

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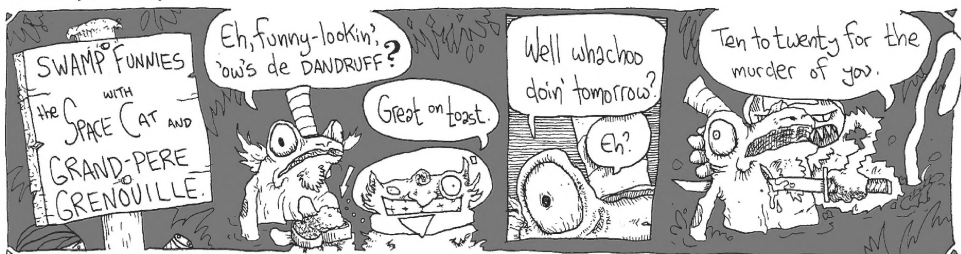
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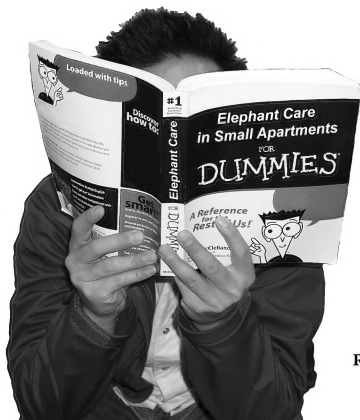
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Happy Bob Knows is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. Happy Bob Knows is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. Happy Bob Knows does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or not open to the public. Events on incomplete forms will not be published. Submissions will print for one issue only. The deadline for submitting an entry for Happy Bob Knows is 3pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in). Gateway Offices (3-04, third floor SUB), fax to 492-6665 or email production@gatewayuabeta.ca. For more information please call 492-6661.



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